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Judas Unchained (The Commonwealth Saga)

By Peter F. Hamilton

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Judas Unchained (The Commonwealth Saga) By Peter F. Hamilton

Peter F. Hamilton's superbly imagined, cunningly plotted interstellar adventures are conceived on a staggeringly epic scale and filled with fully realized human and alien characters as complex as they are engaging. No mere world builder, Hamilton creates entire universes—and he does so with irresistible flair and intelligence. His previous novel, the acclaimed *Pandora's Star*, introduced the Intersolar Commonwealth, a star-spanning civilization of the twenty-fourth century. Robust, peaceful, and confident, the Commonwealth dispatched a ship to investigate the mystery of a disappearing star, only to inadvertently unleash a predatory alien species that turned on its liberators, striking hard, fast, and utterly without mercy.


The Prime are the Commonwealth's worst nightmare. Coexistence is impossible with the technologically advanced aliens, who are genetically hardwired to exterminate all other forms of life. Twenty-three planets have already fallen to the invaders, with casualties in the hundreds of millions. And no one knows when or where the genocidal Prime will strike next.

Nor are the Prime the only threat. For more than a hundred years, a shadowy cult, the Guardians of Selfhood, has warned that an alien with mind-control abilities impossible to detect or resist—the Starflyer—has secretly infiltrated the Commonwealth. Branded as terrorists, the Guardians and their leader, Bradley Johansson, have been hunted by relentless investigator Paula Myo. But now evidence suggests that the Guardians were right all along, and that the Starflyer has placed agents in vital posts throughout the Commonwealth—agents who are now sabotaging the war effort. Is the Starflyer an ally of the Prime, or has it orchestrated a fight to the death between the two species for its own advantage?

Caught between two deadly enemies, one a brutal invader striking from without, the other a remorseless cancer killing from within, the fractious Commonwealth must unite as never before.

This will be humanity's finest hour—or its last gasp.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Set in the 24th century, bestseller Hamilton's richly satisfying space opera is less a sequel to *Pandora's Star* (2004) than the second half of one dauntingly complicated, wonderfully imagined novel. The diverse human Commonwealth is fighting back against the implacably hostile mass-mind Prime, while discovering that agents of another hostile alien force are sabotaging war efforts. In a multitude of subplots, Hamilton adroitly leaps from the struggles of one engaging, quirky character to another. Meanwhile, the main action expands and the super-scientific weapons become increasingly terrible. Then the story shifts focus and presents a moral question: if it's now possible to wipe out the Prime, is it permissible to commit genocide? Hamilton demonstrates that humans not only can shape huge masses of data to their own ends but also can recognize when to stop doing so. Some of the people manage to transcend their small, personal concerns—sometimes. The density of detail may slow readers down, but the distinctive characters and the plot's headlong drive will pull them along. In more ways than one, this two-part work is monumental. (Feb. 28)

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From [Booklist](#)

Hamilton takes up the many loose ends of *Pandora's Star* (2004) and reveals the vast, sprawling conspiracies permeating the big story's interplanetary commonwealth. So much evidence of the Starflyer's existence has been amassed that even the most skeptical begin believing, although it rapidly becomes clear that there are Starflyer agents at the top of the government and the navy. The aliens are busy entrenching themselves on newly conquered worlds, while those planets' few remaining survivors wage futile guerrilla war against them. With humanity being dangerously outnumbered, the governing body desperately seeks a weapon to neutralize the aliens. What it finally comes up with is so devastating as to be genocidal. A showdown is becoming inevitable, however, and perhaps the commonwealth must use the superweapon. In the eleventh hour, the man best suited for the job applies quick thinking and underhanded behavior to the matter. Hamilton has, as usual, produced a dense, engaging space opera that satisfyingly balances shoot-'em-up action and thoughtful debate. *Regina Schroeder*

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Review

Advance praise for Judas Unchained

“For flat-out huge widescreen all-engines-at-full I-dare-you-not-to-believe-it space opera, there is no one quite like Peter F. Hamilton.”

—Richard K. Morgan, author of *Altered Carbon* and *Market Forces*

Praise for Pandora's Star

“Should be high on everyone's reading list . . . You won't be able to put it down.”

—Nancy Pearl, National Public Radio

“An imaginative and stunning tale of the perfect future threatened . . . a book of epic proportions not unlike Frank Herbert's *Dune* or Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* trilogy.”

—SFRevu

“Recommended . . . A large cast of characters, each with his own story, brings depth and variety to this far-future saga.”

–Library Journal

“Complex and engaging.”

–Booklist

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Leggett:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled Judas Unchained (The Commonwealth Saga)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

Francis Knapp:

Reading a book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to the book. One of them is this Judas Unchained (The Commonwealth Saga).

Laura Clark:

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Felix Smith:

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