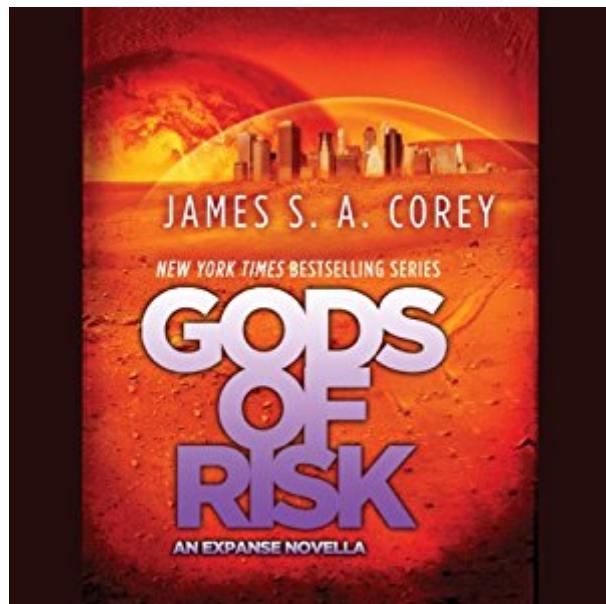


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Gods Of Risk: An Expanse Novella



Synopsis

From New York Times best-selling author James S.A. Corey... As tension between Mars and Earth mounts, and terrorism plagues the Martian city of Londres Nova, 16-year-old David Draper is fighting his own lonely war. A gifted chemist vying for a place at the university, David leads a secret life as a manufacturer for a ruthless drug dealer. When his friend Leelee goes missing, leaving signs of the dealer's involvement, David takes it upon himself to save her. But first he must shake his aunt Bobbie Draper, an ex-marine who has been set adrift in her own life after a mysterious series of events nobody is talking about. Set in the hard-scrabble solar system of Leviathan Wakes and Caliban's War, Gods of Risk deepens James S.A. Corey's acclaimed Expanse series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A very nice addition to the Expanse series. It's not crucial to the main storyline in the novels, but it does add a lot to some of the characters and the world itself. It explores Mars and what life and society is like there, and also contributes extra information about Bobbie Draper - her family, her motivations, and of course some more opportunities to show how much of a bad ass she is. It's a short, fun, and exciting read - good all by itself, and a must for the hard-core fan.

Corey tells a nicely rounded story in 'Gods of Risk,' using the novella length to draw both strong characters, a well-developed conflict and just enough attention paid to the setting that the story feels grounded. It might lack some of the action, set pieces and stakes that its bigger brothers are known

for, but the novella makes up for it with thoughtful storytelling, an interesting plot and believable, if not always likeable, characters. It's easy to call 'Gods of Risk,' Degrassi Junior High-meets-Breaking Bad-meets-Total Recall, and maybe that is all it's meant to be, but there's a nice character drama here and the novella stands as well as a stand alone story as it does a larger piece of the overall Expanse series. Worth of a shot if you're a fan of Corey's novels, or curious about his universe.

I'm on record as being a big fan of James S.A. Corey's (the pen name used by Daniel Abraham (Twitter) and Ty Franck) Expanse series, so I eagerly read the novella GODS OF RISK in advance of their next novel ABADDON'S GATE. Unfortunately, in my opinion, this was the weakest entry in the Expanse series. GODS OF RISK takes place on Mars when tensions are growing between it and Earth. Bobbie Draper is present in the story, but she is a peripheral character. The protagonist is David Draper, her nephew. He is caught between his future as a promising researcher and his part time job as a cook for a local drug dealer. When his friend goes missing, David must confront the dangerous dealer and risk it all. GODS OF RISK is a well crafted short story, but it doesn't really have any action sequences, it lacks some of the cool tech I've come to like in the Expanse series, and it doesn't propel the larger Expanse story forward. It's tangential, peripheral-it could have taken place on present day Earth, really. It's Expanse only in name. Even Bobbie Draper seems crammed into the story. The best part of the novella is a sneak peek at ABADDON'S GATE. Buy this if you want the sneak peek or if you want to support James S.A. Corey. Otherwise, just wait for the next novel.

Mars is a hostile place. But even in all that, something as gentle as Bobbie can grow and flourish. We get to see how family and the need for purpose drive our lives. Compassion is not sacrificed in the emptiness and violence of survival in space.

While GoR doesn't add much to the Expanse narrative, it expands the world a bit by giving the reader a look at the Martian underworld. Gunny Draper plays a background role in the novella, but the story isn't about her. If nothing else, the novella shows that, despite the high tech of Mars' future world, human problems are still the same. Drugs, crime, terrorism, etc. It's worth the read as it's not too long, but don't expect any major revelations.

It's Ok. A bit predictable and did not add any depth to characters or the storyline. I would have liked

a nugget that gives me that little bit of insight or reference that I would not have had otherwise.

These novellas give depth to the mainline story of James Holden and wonderfully fill out the details in the narrative.

One thing these authors do really well is merge detailed character moments with a much large story that you know is always just around the corner. Gods of Risk is no exception. With a narrow focus touching barely on the larger narrative you get a feeling for what is happening on Mars in ways that the big strategic view of the prior books ignores. Oftentimes these Novella expansions are underwhelming and short and are basically unrealized novels. This is NOT the case with Gods of Risk. It stands alone nicely, touches on the larger universe and doesn't have the ghost of an unrealized full-length work attached. I'd love to see more of these small vignettes from different random characters in different places. Give us a Belter novella!!! Great expansion to the series and I can't wait for Cibola Burn!

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