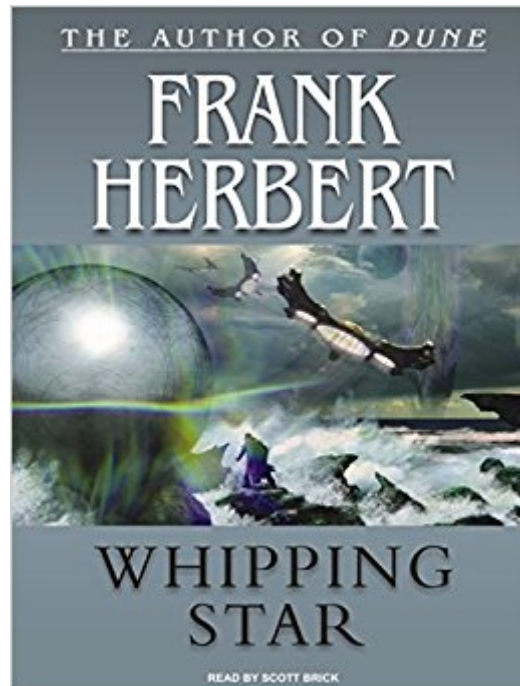




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Whipping Star



Synopsis

In the far future, humankind has made contact with numerous other species-Gowachin, Laclac, Wreaves, Pan Spechi, Taprisiots, and Caleban (among others)-and has helped to form the ConSentieny to govern between the species. After suffering under a tyrannous pure democracy that had the power to create laws so fast that no thought could be given to the effects, the sentients of the galaxy found a need for the Bureau of Sabotage (BuSab) to slow the wheels of government, thereby preventing it from legislating recklessly. In Whipping Star, Jorj X. McKie, a "Saboteur Extraordinary," is a born troublemaker who has naturally become one of BuSab's best agents. As the novel opens, it is revealed that Calebans, who are beings visible to other sentient species as stars, have been disappearing one by one. Each disappearance is accompanied by millions of sentient deaths and instances of incurable insanity. Ninety years prior to the setting of Whipping Star, the Calebans appeared and offered jump-doors to the collective species, allowing sentients to travel instantly to any point in the universe. Gratefully accepting, the sentieny didn't question the consequences. Now Mliss Abnethe, a psychotic human female with immense power and wealth, has bound a Caleban in a contract that allows the Caleban to be whipped to death; when the Caleban dies, everyone who has ever used a jump-door (which is almost every adult in the sentient world and many of the young) will die as well. The Calebans have attempted to remedy the error, but Mliss Abnethe refuses to cancel the contract, and the Caleban sense of honor makes breaking the contract from their side unthinkable. To save themselves, all the Calebans are handing over the time-like history lines of the sentients who used jump-doors to one Caleban, Fannie Mae, and withdrawing from ConSentieny space. McKie has to find Mliss and stop her before Fannie Mae reaches, in her words, "ultimate discontinuity," but he is constrained by the law protecting private individuals by restricting the ministrations of BuSab to public entities.

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Customer Reviews

"Scott Brick narrates this classic piece of science fiction with his usual excellence. The world of the novel is rich and detailed, and Brick is no stranger to readings of this type." ---AudioFile

Frank Herbert's most popular works are the well-known Dune books: Dune, Dune Messiah, Children of Dune, and the extraordinary bestseller God Emperor of Dune. Scott Brick has recorded over five hundred audiobooks, won over forty AudioFile Earphones Awards, and twice received Audie Awards for his work. Scott was chosen as Publishers Weekly's 2007 Narrator of the Year, and he has been named a Golden Voice by AudioFile magazine.

It's a decent story, and has interesting ideas about communicating with alien intelligences, and the consequences of miscommunication. Another great idea, the organization which the main character works for, was sadly not explored in depth. Hopefully "The Dosadi Experiment" does it justice.

Whipping Star is an interesting introduction to some of the background to the world of the Dosadi Experiment, and the universe of creatures that populate it. If you enjoyed Dosadi, Whipping Star will fill out details of the Calebans. If you haven't yet read Dosadi, this will make that universe more familiar to you when you do (and you should read both). Frank Herbert at his work of building intricate civilizations in a time before Dune.

This story picks up the life of saboteur extraordinary Jorj X. Mckie. He is sent on a mission to save all sentient life in the universe. On this mission he meets and befriends a calaban, a strange multi-dimensional creature who radiates emotion and bleeds purple sparks. Most of the story is taken up with jumbled conversations between Mckie and the calaban named Fannie Mae. It is at times confusing and for some is enough to put the book down forever, but the diligent reader will be rewarded with a downright heartwarming tale.

I first read dosadi and realized it was a sequel., finally finding book one I was really expecting so much more. Learning about this world and its speci really appealed to me. No such luck. Its not a

bad book, just not the Herbert I've come to know and love. Frankly it's nearly all about communication between two alien races with very different realities.

Whipping Star gives you an introduction to Jorj X. McKie (special agent of Busab), to the Busab universe and the mystery of the Calebans. Calebans facilitate interplanetary travel and are mysterious creatures who speak in riddles. Someone is killing a Calaban and it is McKie's job to find out who and why. The book is complex and the writing is dense and the concepts discussed are difficult if you're not paying close attention. It is a thoroughly enjoyable book but to me it serves as an introduction to "The Dosadi Experiment". It's not vital that you read this book but if you are a fan of Frank Herbert and want to read a complex, intriguing book then give this a try. You won't be disappointed but it might give you more of an intellectual work-out than you might expect from a science fiction novel.

I very much enjoy reading and re-reading Frank Herbert's novels. Whipping Star was another really good read. It could be considered to be the precursor to The Dosadi Experiment; a book I keep going back to time and again.

Not nearly as good as the companion book Dosadi Experiment. Jorj X McKie is a character worth following. Light reading.

Really great fun, McKie is one of my favorite characters too bad he is only in two novels.

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