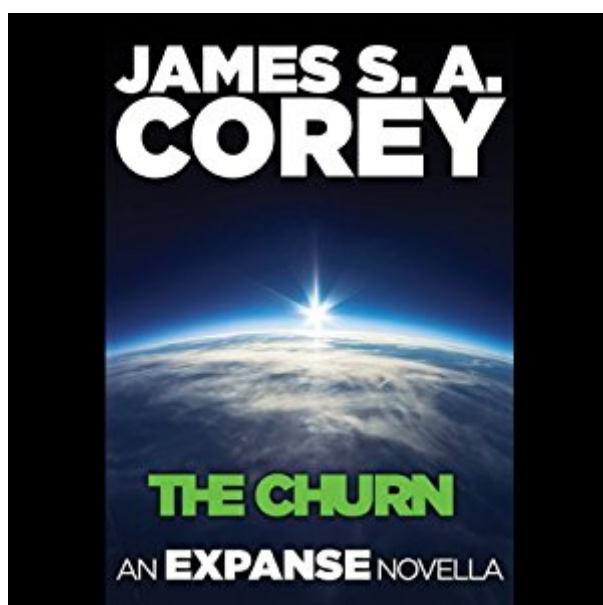


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The Churn: An Expanse Novella



Synopsis

From New York Times best-selling author James S. A. Corey... Before his trip to the stars, before the Rocinante, Amos Burton was confined to a Baltimore where crime paid you or killed you. Unless the authorities got to you first. Set in the hard-scrabble solar system of Leviathan Wakes, Caliban's War, Abaddon's Gate, and the upcoming Cibola Burn, The Churn deepens James S. A. Corey's acclaimed Expanse series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's a bit expensive for its length. The good part is that it follows the pre-EXPANSE back-story of one of the major characters. I suspect that many more will be written as this is a good way to monetize some of the background character development that never gets directly into the main novels. Worth reading for the back-story.

Great look into the mean streets of Baltimore in the world of The Expanse and the struggles of some small time gang members as they try to survive a government sponsored crackdown on crime. Really great twist I should have seen coming but did not which proves again why this is one of the most enjoyable Sci Fi series going.

As a huge fan and evangelist of the Expanse series it pains me to deliver such a low-rated review, but I'm going for honesty over brand loyalty here. None of the reasons that I've enjoyed the

Expanse series were present in this book. The science fiction concepts were so minimal that the story could largely have been set in present day and they played no real role in the plot. The characters felt fairly flat to me - devoid of color, depth, and appeal - and the story certainly didn't leave me feeling like I knew Amos any more than before I started. In fact I'm left wondering how the character in this story becomes the character that we know from the series as the gulf in engineering knowledge and interest seems huge. Beyond those facts, I just found the story background rather mundane and plodding. I kept reading in hopes that the S.A. Corey energy I knew would kick in and that the story would kick into high gear, but it never happened. I had to push all the way to complete the story. The vital take-aways for Expanse fans could probably be summarized in a sentence or two. The tale just didn't seem to justify larger format. The info could have been better presented as a candid Amos moment in a novel. I'm very much looking forward to the next novel and have expectations that it will deliver as solidly as the three before it. But what I learned from this novella was not to impulsively buy Corey/Expanse by brand, but to wait for reviews on future novellas.

This is pretty similar to the other two novellas that have been put out for this series, and I'd definitely recommend it as well. It's quite short, which is a bummer, but it's still totally worth the time of anyone who likes the series. And it'll serve to re-whet your appetite for the book coming out in July

As a new fan of "The Expanse", both the book and the TV show, I thought I would read this prequel to broaden my knowledge of the characters and just put myself further into the Expanse world. It is dark, depressing, and violent--Dystopia with a capital "D"--probably not what I would normally read for fun and cheer--but Expanse fans will want to take this in. It gives important background on one of the main characters.

I am starting to really appreciate the way that novelists are using novellas to build up back stories for larger series--in this case, for Corey's The Expanse series. Although one could read the major series without any of the novellas that are linked to those novels, these novellas provide a deeper understanding of some of the major (albeit secondary) characters. In this case, the novella describes the pre-space life of one of the four crew men from the Rocinante, and reading it led to powerful insights into the story of how this character became the person whom we see in the larger novel. I highly recommend reading this book after reading at least the second Expanse novel. (I read it after reading the third.) It's a great example of powerful writing, fascinating characters, and

historical information about the status of the solar system before the time of the Expanse novels.

Finally, we get a glimpse into the mind of Amos Burton!!! An exciting story with a character the likes of which I've never seen before. Amos is always the relatively quiet one throughout the novels - a quiet menace backing up the crew of the Rocinante. But this book takes you to the origins of Amos - who he is, where he came from, how he thinks, and why he is the way he is. An excellent story on its own and a must-read for any Expanse fan. Amos is a very scary man. Good thing he's chosen to be one of the good guys.

It's amazing how easy it is to get into an Expanse book, and even more amazing how quickly the story becomes a page-turner. "The Churn" is no exception. Best of all, this story provides a great explanation for events in the later-set full-length novels. No spoilers here, but after you finish this short book, you'll definitely have an answer to the question of "why?" of one aspect of "Leviathan Wakes" and beyond.

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