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A.E. van Vogt , Kevin J. Anderson

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A Novel. This startling SF adventure novel is a collaboration between the classic SF grand master A. E. Van Vogt and contemporary master Kevin J. Anderson. At the time of his death in 2000, Van Vogt left a partial draft and an outline for the sequel to his most famous novel, Slan . . .

Slan Hunter Details

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Author : A.E. van Vogt , Kevin J. Anderson

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From Reader Review Slan Hunter for online ebook

Oluwatoyin says

After reading SLAN over 25 years ago, I had always wanted to read its sequel. Unfortunately, it was a great disappointment, the literature was poorly written - almost like it was written for a slightly childish audience (which i was about 25 years ago)

Jeffrey says

Slan is one of those golden age of Science Fiction books that is so frustrating to read these days. I re-read it several years ago while traveling with my family on Christmas day by pressing a button on my Kindle and while speeding down the highway it instantly popped up on my screen. I finished it that day. It's an early work in van Vogt's canon.

The technology involved in getting that 60+ year old book to me at 60 miles per hour is so much more impressive than the technology of the future in Slan Hunter.

But, in this book the race of super-humans that we are supposed to be empathizing with on a number of levels (the Holocaust, Zionism, Christ/savior, next stage of evolution--pick your message they are all in here somewhere, jumbled about) are as petty and venial as the humans they despise. The main characters act in such nonsensical ways that it is hard to keep reading.

There are many layers of deus ex machina at work here. The science fiction tag comes from technology solving every solvable problem, while coincidence solves every other problem. Main characters are all passive verbs, merely floating along the plot. Every opportunity for real sacrifice is destroyed. There's some good story telling here and there, some nice imagery, but that's all destroyed by adverbial clauses and oddities of speech. (The Tendriless slan refer to their enemies as the True Slan without fail. If I had a narrative that included persecution by my enemies the last thing I would do is refer to them as "true" slan and by extension label myself as something lesser.)

There's a whole character arc, that introduces a new character that ultimately morally bankrupts the whole system in the last few pages. The last few pages are worse than the rest of the book for destroying any hope of lasting enjoyment from this book.

Perhaps the problem is me. When I was a young teen reading Slan for the first time I would certainly have self-identified with the notion that "fans are slans" that somehow, because I read and enjoyed Speculative Fiction, I was actually better than other people. It's a powerful motivation to belong to a group that is intellectually superior and ultimately destined to win. Now that I'm older I have a bias against such self-inclusive superiority (see also The Brights).

I'm just a mundane, human normal. And that's not so bad. I'm sorry if I let you down Mr. Van Vogt. And I will never re-read The Weapon Shops of Isher. Because I want to still be a fan.

Morgan Dhu says

So I've finally read *Slan Hunter*, the sequel to A. E. Van Vogt's classic novel *Slan*, written by Kevin J. Anderson from a partial draft and outline by Van Vogt. Like the Various Dune sequels written by Anderson and Brian Herbert, it really doesn't live up to the original - but then not much fan fic does.

My identification with Jommy Cross and the true slans, back when I read *Slan*, was so strong and so pervasive that just reading more in that universe revived my attachment to the characters, and that carried me through *Slan Hunter*, reading at a breathless pace. Of course, the text lends itself to such reading, being little more than tense action sequences interrupted by expository dialogue between multiple characters.

The narrative covers the span of a few days immediately following the abrupt end of the events in *Slan*. President Kier Grey is exposed as a slan by John Petty, chief of the secret police, and he, Jommy and Kathleen are arrested. Out in the city, a tendrilled child is born to two apparently human parents, and the father gives his life to buy time for the shocked mother to escape with her baby. Suddenly, the first wave of the invasion fleet sent by the tendrillless slans living, unknown to humans, on Mars, appears in the skies, bombarding human cities around the globe into rubble.

After much dashing here and there, and many bloody scenes of destruction, these characters, along with Joanna, a tendrillless slan who was converted by Jommy to the true slan cause in the original book, converge on a deserted slan complex that was once the secret laboratory and living facility where Jommy's father Peter Cross and other true slans had hidden away.

With only two days until the second invasion fleet carrying the ground troops arrives, Jommy and co. are desperate to find a way to save the world and bring about peace between human, tendrilled and tendrillless slan. Fortunately, one of the biggest deus ex machinas I've ever seen arrives right on time to save the day, and the future.

A quick read, mostly enjoyable because anything that restores Jommy Cross and the true slans to their rightful place as peaceful participants in the glorious future of humanity, after seven decades of dangling on a cliff-hanger, is better than never finding a resolution.

Francesco says

Gli Slan sono degli esseri formidabili, purtroppo l'età del romanzo si fa sentire

Nick says

While I understand the author's motivation in wanting to complete this "lost" work, I'm not sure it was a good idea. The original *Slan* novel by Van Vogt was at the beginning of his career, and felt a tiny bit incomplete, since it left most of the plot threads unresolved at the end of the short novel.

Unfortunately, because Van Vogt waited 50 years to begin work on the sequel, and left the book still unfinished at the time of his death, Kevin J. Anderson had a difficult task. He had to finish a book that involved the main characters having been written into a bunch of corners. Repeatedly, the main characters make seemingly illogical decisions, in order for things to come out right in the end...and if I understood the

final few pages, I'm not at all sure they DID come out right in the end. The final chapter had me questioning the moral implications...

Unfortunately, Anderson duplicated Van Vogt's lack of development in Jommy's character, and he remained slightly annoying and overconfident well after he should have learned better. Still the story is a decent adventure, and it's nice to have some resolution to the original story, even if I didn't like how it came out.

Richp says

If one likes reading *Slan* now, one should like this sequel, which is largely a completion, also.

Kevin Anderson, who put his book together from van Vogt's plot notes and drafts, accomplished what he set out to accomplish. This sequel finishes a pulp SF classic, in the universe and style of the original. I agree with those who find its faults, but I found they were already there in the original, and should have been left for continuity sake.

As I write this, I find the rating discrepancy between all raters (3.38, based on 137) and previous reviewers (2.25, based on 8) to be huge. Small sample size of the latter is part, but I think selection bias is mostly what caused this.

Matteo Pellegrini says

John Petty, capo della polizia segreta, è il cacciatore di slan più spietato della Terra. Jem Lorry, consigliere del presidente, è l'uomo che sta letteralmente per vendere il pianeta agli invasori da Marte, gli slan senzantenne... Ma questi esseri - all'apparenza inermi e in realtà temutissimi - sono davvero i mutanti, la nuova razza che soppianderà l' *Homo sapiens* ? Solo Jommy Cross, lo slan dagli straordinari poteri mentali, può evitare che la caccia finisca in una guerra allucinante e senza vincitori. Perché nelle nude, brulicanti città della Terra, come negli avamposti del pianeta rosso, sta per scatenarsi l'ultima sfida tra uomini e superuomini - un conflitto terminale che solo la mente di A. E. van Vogt avrebbe potuto immaginare.

JonSnow says

4 stars, for what it is. People don't grasp what this is. They seem to approach the book with unreasonable expectations, then rate it poorly when those aren't met. This is published in 2007. BUT it is written in a style that reflects it as a sequel to the 1940 *Slan* novel. So of course the technology doesn't make sense by contemporary standards. It is also meant to be a kind of pulp science fiction style 40s novel, in 2007. Evidently this has pissed off ... everyone... except me!!

I loved it. It was a fun read which continued the tale AE Van Vogt never got to write. If you understand what this book strives to be, you will enjoy it. If you do not, you will hate it. There are complaints about the writing style, it being childish, the silly technology... got news for you folks, that's the intended effect of this book. Hating this book for what it is, is like complaining that a flower isn't a tree... it wasn't meant to be something it is not.

Tex-49 says

La conclusione, dopo più di 40 anni, del romanzo Slan, è molto più movimentata e... quasi credibile, ma si legge bene ed è obbligatorio da leggere per concludere la storia, senza lasciarla appesa.

Transgender Bathroom says

If you'd like to know what I thought of this book, please contact me directly and I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

All the best,

- TB

Kip says

I read the original as a kid, then after some discussion last summer decided to re-read that first on my way to reading the sequel. I must say, Kevin Anderson did a great job. I'm not sure how much material he had to start with from the Grand Master, but there were only a couple spots where the style was noticeably different from the original. That only in a phrase or two, IMHO.

It was nice to see some closure with Jommy and the crew, even if the science was a bit far-fetched. I've read the original twice, this one once, and don't plan to pick them up again. Classics.

* Couldn't finish

** I had nothing else to do

*** Passed the time, would be **** for genre / author fans

**** Everyone could enjoy this book

***** Everyone should read this book, I'll read it again

Anthony Faber says

Van Vogt left a partial manuscript which Anderson completed. If you like "Slan", you'll like this.

Kat Hooper says

will review at www.fantasyliterature.com

Del says

Great sequel to Slan. Really enjoyed it. It felt like A. E. Van Vogt was still alive and writing great sci fi.

George says

Good story, but I just couldn't get into it.
