



# Alien: Covenant Origins

*Alan Dean Foster*

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## **Alien: Covenant Origins** Alan Dean Foster

The Covenant mission is the most ambitious endeavor in the history of Weyland-Yutani. A ship bound for Origae-6, carrying two thousand colonists beyond the limits of known space, this is make-or-break investment for the corporation—and for the future of all mankind.

Yet there are those who would die to stop the mission. As the colony ship hovers in Earth orbit, several violent events reveal a deadly conspiracy to sabotage the launch. While Captain Jacob Branson and his wife Daniels complete their preparations, security chief Daniel Lopé recruits the final key member of his team. Together they seek to stop the perpetrators before the ship and its passengers can be destroyed.

An original novel by the acclaimed ALAN DEAN FOSTER, author of the groundbreaking Alien novelization, Origins is the official chronicle of the events that led up to Alien: Covenant. It also reveals the world the colonists left behind.

## **Alien: Covenant Origins Details**

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Author : Alan Dean Foster

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# From Reader Review Alien: Covenant Origins for online ebook

## Stephen says

Foster gives an imaginative preface to the Covenant mission. I really enjoyed the set up and the struggles that the crew goes through before even lifting off. This book adds color to the movie and movie novelization.

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## Jakk Makk says

Confused by the Aliens franchise these days? Me too. Apparently you supposed to read Prometheus prior. This Earth bound book is about Weyland-Yutani Corp, I assume to get David8 or some other Andy introduced since it has a large influence on the later timeline.

Recommended for those who enjoy Kevin Siembieda: Rifts, type world's. On that level, it's great stuff from the ever competent Foster. Corp intrigue, assassin's guilds, Neo-Tokyo, combatbots, implants, what's not to like?

As an Alien book, it's, meh. The characters aren't forgettable so much as plug and play. The opposition rebels aren't convincing or likeable compared to Philip K. Dick versions of the same. This is the first Alien book I've read and thought I could do better. Maybe too many cooks in this franchise stew.

Out there be demons? Um, okay, thanks for chiming in: Team Tryhards.

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## Nicholas says

The question to ask yourself before reading this novel is, do you need an actual Alien present in the story, to enjoy an Alien novel. If the answer is yes, you will surely want to skip this novel. If however, you're open to the idea of learning more about the world in which the Alien movies exist, by way of a techno-thriller with a rather strange cult as the antagonist, then this book is sure to please. I admit I'm one of the few fans of the Alien Covenant, so I was eager to delve more into the crew of the ill-fated colony ship. The novel surprises by not even taking the obvious route of making the leads of the movie central to the story here. Instead, we have Lope (played by Demián Bichir in the movie) and Rosenthal (played by Tess Haubrich whose head memorably gets found in the water in the movie) taking point on an Earth-bound investigation involving a strange prophetic cult and numerous attempts to stop the launch of the titular ship, ranging from sabotage to kidnapping to an outright kamikaze run. The novel takes a while to settle down on who exactly is the protagonist in this story. We get a cast of different characters, including Yutani himself but the book doesn't hit its best stride until it finally settles down with the pair of security officers from Covenant. Along the way, we get some filler, including a small but ultimately superfluous look at the final crunch to get Walter ready. The story bookends with Daniels and her husband Branson, who goes practically unseen in the movie. The most intriguing aspect of the story is the Prophet and his dark Gieger-esque visions that drive the worst fears of his followers. The original movie always pointed to some kind of foreknowledge of the Aliens prior to the Nostromo and the adventures of Ripley. The movie Prometheus seemed to explain this and added a touch of destiny with the meeting with the Engineers, but this novel seems to take things further with an almost supernatural element. Now the encounter with the Alien no longer seems cosmic coincidence but veridical destiny. It's a spooky touch that on the surface looks simply to justify the Alien connection, but Foster makes it work well. After reading this, I say let Alan Dead Foster have a crack at a Bond novel.

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## **Ursula Johnson says**

### **Corporate Espionage**

I've been a fan of the Alien films for a long time. I didn't have the opportunity to see Alien Covenant in theaters, but have the film on Blu Ray, though I haven't seen it yet. I decided to wait until the prequel Book was published and read it and the film novelization before watching the movie. It is unusual that the prequel book, which should've been published first, was actually last.

There are no monsters in this book, as it is a tale of corporate espionage regarding the mission of the colony ship Covenant. The intrigue is well written and interesting, though not all questions are answered. Weyland - Yutani is not quite the corporate powerhouse in this book, though they are a conglomerate. The head Hideo Yutani is interesting. The organization that opposes him, the Earth Savers has a "prophet" who seemingly knows what monsters like in the dark. His nightmares have given the Earth Savers fuel for their fire. This plot point is similar to one in an earlier book, Alien Sea of Shadows. Please note: Spoilers.

Duncan Fields, the prophet, seems to have an empathetic link to the Alien warriors, similar to Ripley's descendant in Sea of Shadows. He had the ability to see through the Alien warriors eyes. Duncan Fields seems to have this ability as well, though the background is not explained fully. Still a great read. I read this book using Immersion Reading. Narrator Tom Taylorson, is excellent, with a beautiful, clear voice and is gifted with accents. It was definitely a highlight to hear this book as well as read it. Worth your time.

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## **Chris McClure says**

If you're looking for a great story, keep looking. If you're looking for a good story, I make no promises. I guess it just depends on your tastes, but I've read worse. It's a decent approach to give you a history of the company and a sense of what Earth has become. Aside from that, I wouldn't head in with high hopes.

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## **Nick says**

Ok don't get me wrong this was well written and gave a tiny insight into life on earth and the beginnings of Weyland Yutani which was nice but other than that it just seemed a bit pointless.

The whole prophet O-T-B-D stuff which we as readers obviously we knew was correct but it was never tied down to anything in particular so bore no direct relation to the Xenomorphs or future events outside of 'bad things will kill humans if we go out there'. If they'd tried to tie it into the whole Xenomorph queen/queen mother psychic abilities that wouldn't have fit the timeline as aside from David's small few true Xenomorph eggs (which we have no idea when they would be present due to time and long sleep etc) there should be no Xenomorphs in existence.

If it was meant to point towards the 'Engineers' then surely someone must've known even a smidgen about Weylands trip on the Prometheus and what he was looking for even if not where they'd gone.

So all we were left with was some criminal activity, kidnapping, hostage situations and people shooting at others to try and delay/stop a mission because some crazy dreamer is scared we'll meet aliens who will come

to earth and kill us all.

If you're an Alien fan then read it for the small morsels of world building in the universe but otherwise its a kind off out of place story set in the Alien universe.

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### **Pam says**

This is the prequel to Alien: Covenant, and happens after the events in Prometheus. This is not filled with edge-of-the-seat suspense or the horror of the aliens themselves. Rather, this tells a tale of the Companies, and their absolute control over the Earth. And the Earth has 30 billion people living on it! So, yes, the world is dying. Covenant is the star ship that will send people to a new world to colonize, perhaps to save the human race, and at the very least, help with a population issue. It seems no one is interested in actually solving that one...So there is a Prophet, and he sees visions of horrible creatures that tear humans apart. He has these nightmares every night, and he knows that mankind must never leave the Earth, lest he bring those creatures back here to destroy us. He has a following. This entire book is mainly about the Covenant's crew preparing to leave, and the Prophet's followers trying to stop them. In the background, one gets the understanding of the Companies, and the synthetic life-forms that travel on each ship. Prometheus had a 'David'. Covenant will have a 'Walter'. I believe the original Alien movie had an 'Ashe'. There are some hints about these beings, as well. I think the book is good, in that it explains a lot and is well-written.. I still wonder if it's really necessary...I will have to read Alien: Covenant to discover that, I think.

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### **Joshua Polk says**

I enjoyed reading this book with my wife (we are big fans of the Alien storyline). It was interesting to discover some of the background and controversy behind the Covenant colonization mission. The book is well-written and fast-paced (for the most part). My biggest complaints are the following:

1. There appears to be a huge plot hole regarding the Earthsavers' plan to kidnap/assassinate Yutani. They decided to kidnap him but the next scene shows the mafia boss explaining the plot to assassinate him instead. In addition, the Earthsavers' later scoffed at the idea of killing Yutani as if they had not already tried to do that exact thing.
2. Characters have a weird habit of explaining things to people when 1) the person already got an explanation earlier in the book or 2) the person should definitely already know about the thing being explained.
3. The characters in this book did not really match the characters in the movie. For example, several characters including Lope and Rosenthal are portrayed as super-competent geniuses when, in the movie, they are bumbling idiots (like everybody else in the film).

Otherwise, it was an enjoyable read and a decent book. I recommend for fans of the Alien movies/novelizations. Non-fans will likely not find much of interest here.

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## **Jason L says**

### **Horrible prequel**

Just a pitiful attempt at latching onto the alien franchise. I expected much more out of adf. There was no depth and the story went linearly to totally expected places without resolving a thing. Very disappointed in this money grab.

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## **Shawn Birss says**

I like to review books based on their own context and whether they reach their own goals. So, that said, this prequel story to a sequel film to a prequel film for the original Alien film is not one that I began reading with expectations for classic level literature. But I liked it for what it was.

Alan Dean Foster wrote the best screenplay novelization that I have ever read with his novelization of the original Aliens screenplay. Since he wrote that book before the film was complete, he had not seen any of H.R. Giger's creature and set design, which ended up dramatically influencing the finished product of the film. So, in that first book, we get to see Foster giving us his own vision of the screenplay. It puts on display just how good the story writing was on that first film, even before the impressive visuals.

However, Foster's treatment for Alien: Covenant was not so agreeable to me. Since I know this writer can make something of a good script, I tend to blame the failure of that novelization on the script, not on Foster. The only value that book has is to see how much an improvement Ridley Scott was able to make from the script he had, if Foster's book reflects the original script more closely.

But here, it seems that Alan Dean Foster was probably given greater range to write his own book. I expect he was given some kind of plot to follow. But this is not a novelization of a screenplay. This is a new story that takes place between the prequel films Prometheus and Alien: Covenant. It takes place on earth, and no Xenomorphs make an appearance. But there aren't technically any Xenomorphs in Foster's original Alien novel, either. So that should be fine. Still, many readers may find themselves disappointed to read a novel with the name "Alien", claiming to be part of the franchise, and with an image of a Xenomorph on the cover, without the creatures being included. I'd understand the complaint.

My complaint is less with the lack of aliens, and more with some of the choices in the plot and premise. Most of the story surrounds the launching of the Covenant colony ship, and a group of religious terrorists that wish to stop it. Though I enjoyed the book enough as it is, I was disappointed by the emphasis placed on the terrorist's willingness to lose their own lives for their cause, without adequately providing them with a justification for such actions. True extremists aren't just willing to die for a cause for reasons of extremism alone. Without some belief that their sacrifice will be rewarded, either with something left behind for their family, some sort of measurable glory, or a spiritual consequence in a life to come, they don't just willingly commit suicide. In not providing this, the book's premise is weakened considerably, and these villains become paper thin caricatures instead of a real threat.

Secondly, the perspective of the book places these terrorists in the role of villains for wanting to stop the colony ship from launching, because of a prophet's visions of demonic creatures from beyond. This puts Weyland-Yutani Corporation in the role of victim. But any reader familiar with the Alien franchise will

know that these kooky religious folks are actually right. For this colony ship to leave, the earth and everyone on the ship will be put in grave danger by demonic looking creatures. In fact, if they were to succeed, they would actually save the lives of everyone on board. Furthermore, the Weyland-Yutani Corporation has consistently been villainous toward the protagonists of nearly every story ever written in the Alien canon (and outside the canon). It seems to be a lost opportunity that this book was not instead written with the terrorists as the protagonists, and the corporation as the villain. That could have made for some very interesting reading.

Instead we have a somewhat bland, but competently entertaining thriller. Though some of the big pieces don't entirely fit, Foster is still adept at character description and science fiction action, enough to keep this die-hard fan happy through to the last page.

The very best part of my copy of this book is the inscription on the inside cover. It is written by my seven-year-old, who gave it to me for Christmas. He also drew a picture in black pen of he and I watching an Alien movie together, something we have yet to do. But, one day...

Recommended only to very dedicated fans of the Alien franchise, who enjoy supermarket paperback thrillers.

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Mass Market Paperback  
Titan Books, 2017

Three Stars

December 25, 2017 - January 1, 2018

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## **Mark says**

It's unfortunate that this has to carry the word "Alien" in its title. It's set on Earth, detailing events leading up to the launch of the interstellar colony ship Covenant, as depicted in the movie ALIEN COVENANT. However, this tale has only the slightest link to the titular creatures, which is sure to leave some unaware readers feeling disappointed, or worse. That's more a problem of marketing requirements than of the author, though. Alan Dean Foster presents a story that kept me turning the pages, and added depth to characters that didn't get much in the movie, particularly Sergeant Lopec. If approached with the appropriate expectations, I think any fan of the Alien series will appreciate ORIGINS, even if it doesn't really involve the Aliens themselves.

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## **Eddie Cejvan says**

A very interesting story set in the Alien universe where there is no encounter with actual aliens themselves. It makes for OK sci-fi, even though it doesn't do the best job of explaining the context for the conditions on

Earth. The small cast and the extreme focus on the preparation for Covenant mission, make for a claustrophobic setting. At times I wondered if there is enough material there to fill a novel, but the plot thickened and it kept me interested to the very end.

In many ways, it would've been better to not have Alien in the title, even if it is a prequel to the Alien: Covenant movie. Because of its Earth-bound setting, perhaps titling it Weyland-Yutani Chronicles: Covenant Origins would have been more apt.

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### **Danny Hammons says**

Remove the word Alien from the title. Lame concocted story to cash in on the Alien franchise.

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### **Deborah says**

#### **Background Story of Alien:Covenant**

I loved the background story of Earth and the why the Covenant space craft left Earth for colonization in another planet. I literally hated interrupting reading it to do other thing. The group and it's people who tried to sabotage and prevent the Covenant mission was well done, too. Loved this book.

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### **Jay says**

I have read the reviews for this book and I slightly understand the negative reviews. I love the mythos and various stories surrounding the Alien series. I have been a huge fan of the movies (first 2 mostly) since I was a kid. This book is different than the others, sure. It is not an "Alien" in the aspect that there are no xenomorphs, neomorphs... etc. What this book contains is a very good story about the trials and tribulations of the planet prior to the launch of the Covenant, why they needed to colonize, the fact that there was resistance to that motion and why. It is odd and it is slow in parts, but every story has a start and an end. Not all parts of a story move at 100 MPH. Tom Taylorson did a great job of narration and was spot on with the voice characterization. Knowing what comes next makes this book that much better in my opinion. The way Alan Dean Foster wrote drew me into the world and allowed me to get lost in the competing sides of the struggle.

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