



Behemot

Peter Watts , Dominika Rycerz-Jakubiec (Translator) , Andrzej Jakubiec (Translator)

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Pi?? lat temu zniszczy?a? ?wiat.

?wiat sam sobie na to zas?u?y?.

Z g??bin oceanu przynios?a? mu pewien dar – apokaliptycznego mikroba zdolnego przewróci? ca?? planet? do góry nogami.

Teraz samo DNA znalaz?o si? na kraw?dzi wymarcia. Ameryka Pó?nocna leg?a w gruzach, opanowana przez wszechmocnego psychopat?.

Rz?dy na ca?ym ?wiecie upad?y, a z popio?ów wy?onili si? samozwa?czy przywódcy i samobójcze kulty. A wszystko to dlatego, ?e pi?? lat temu musia?a? wyrówna? rachunki.

Jednak w mi?dzyczasie dokona?a? zaskakuj?cego rdkrycia: zniszczy?a? ?wiat z powodu fa?szywych pozorów.

Od kilku lat ukrywasz si? po?ród gór w g??binach Atlantyku. Nie mo?esz jednak tkwi? tam wiecznie. Konsekwencje twoich przesz?ych czynów zaczynaj? si?ga? a? na samo dno ?wiata – i nagle nawet tam nie da si? ju? cofn?? liczby ofiar.

Tak czy inaczej, musisz wreszcie wypi? piwo, którego sama sobie nawarzy?a?.

Behemot Details

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Author : Peter Watts , Dominika Rycerz-Jakubiec (Translator) , Andrzej Jakubiec (Translator)

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From Reader Review Behemot for online ebook

Bradley says

After the last book gave us a world above the ocean and the one before gave us the world below, I wondered just where this (duo/single?) third novel would take us.

Indeed, it gave us a synthesis. We had a treat of biology, more gene-modding, collapsing ecospheres, and even a bit of cooperation as the virus that had once been biological had become computational and had destroyed our modern world AND infected us biologically.

This is a true dystopian, no matter how you look at it, but it is also a wonderful combination of cyberpunk, biopunk, and military SF.

Military SF? Oh yeah, it went there this time. :)

Big time war. All those victim/victimizers out there finally found common ground and decided to team up or team-WITH the ancient big-bad. Totally cool.

I think it redeems a bit of the issue I had with the middle book by way of theme and analysis. It was also a bit more fast-paced and focused, less wandering. It had less discovery. I like discovery, of course, but with everything else that was going on, I really wanted to see some kind of cool resolution.

And we got it, here.

I totally recommend this SF series. Some people might prefer to have stopped at the first, but this entire cycle was well worth the effort.

Peter Watts is an absolute Must-Read for me. I won't quibble anymore. He's on my favorites list. :)

Rob says

Too long, too bloated, missing the tight tension of the previous two. Some of the same tricks of the preceding volumes are tried on again, with less impressive results. I wanted to like this, and was even mostly able to ignore or stomach the gratuitous content, but felt that the series spluttered to an inglorious conclusion.

Michael Johnson says

Behemoth, the third and final installment of the Rifters Trilogy, ended the series suitably well. Sadly, I can't say it was my favorite of the three. I felt that the main character, Lennie Clark, was too whiny. The story, without actually giving anything away, is that she had a hand in killing billions and wanted no more blood on her hands. Unfortunately, I found myself wishing she actually get strangled, for once, just to stop her complaining. Nothing against the author by any means, I just personally felt it was overdone.

The series as a whole was excellent. I loved the main character up until the final book and, admittedly, frequently even then. I loved the ideas presented and the characters were fantastic. As a series I would give it a 4/5.

Jean-Philippe says

4.5/5

Jay Michaels says

Good science fiction premises to begin with, then we gradually find out the protagonist is socially inept, and incapable of carrying on reasonable mature relationships with others. Add the 20th century profanity storm which erupts during an argument, followed by uncomfortable and disturbing sexual exchanges.

I dumped this one at (virtual) page number 101 out of 656. If you insist that your "literature" leave you feeling gross and disgusting, this is for you.

It's **definitely** not for me. I'm lumping Watts into my Lois Lowry "I'm never reading **this** author again" category.

Nov. 14, 2013.

Mike says

I have the version with both books in a single copy.

While it is nice to see the ending of the series, and a ray of hope for the future, this was the worst book in the series in my opinion.

It hits like the ending to the remake of House on Haunted Hill. Great effects and tension throughout the movie till the end...when they are chased by a badly rendered ink blot. One sees that and thinks that it was going so well, what the hell happened?

The rifiers seem to have gone crazy with paranoia waiting to explode. Once a mutated virus comes into play they are set off. I guess the argument could be made that it makes sense with really deranged personalities, but the entire group acts like an insane asylum for murderous psychotics on PCP (and access to explosives). Lenie seems completely paralyzed with doubt, which is understandable given she ended the world, but it gets old very quickly. It was really hard to read though, and became a hard slog. I felt this part of the story was harder to believe (in terms of characterization) than plastic joke vomit.

The corpses seem to act in a pretty rational way when confronted with murderous lunatics with the power to kill them all with itchy trigger fingers. Such as when they give medical aid to people to have their doctors brutally beaten and threatened. Then have their leader brutally murdered while trying for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. After that there is no consequence except the rifter leaders sending themselves on

(presumably) a one way mission to see the world. Those people they didn't really listen to in the first place.

When the rifters come onto land and investigate what is going on, it gets more interesting. You get to see what has transpired, and they work towards saving what they have destroyed. It's still dark and depressing like the rest of the series, but in new locations.

The worst story line was the chief lawbreaker in Rio. Every one of his chapters were either psychotically deranged murder porn, or glimpses into the past of a twisted sociopath. It went from adding depth in the second book, to nauseating and frustrating in the third. A few chapters of that story line added knowledge of what was going on, more then half could go and make a much better story.

At least a story where you don't end up in the bathroom scrubbing yourself down with borax and drinking turpentine to kill the brain cells that remember the passages.

Negativni says

"The essence of humanity's spiritual dilemma is that we evolved genetically to accept one truth and discovered another."

- E.O. Wilson

U prethodnom osvrtu spomenuo sam *Guilt Trip*, genetski modifikator koji korporativnim agentima suspreže savjest tako što se umjesto nje veže na iste receptore. Jedna radikalna skupina napravi genetski modifikator *Spartacus* kojim zaraze dio korporativnih agenata. *Spartacus* spriježava vezivanje *Guilt Trip*, ali i potpuno onemogućuje savjest, što treba omogućiti razumno razmišljanje bez ikakvog uplitanja emocija. No, što ako je netko od tih "oslobođenih" korporativnih agenata bio psihopat prije *Guilt Trip*?

U napomenama na kraju romana Watts kaže kako ga neki čitatelji optužuju da ne zna razliku između osobnosti i neurokemije, ali on kaže da oni trebaju kriviti znanstvenike koji nalaze sve više dokaza koji potvrđuju da je osobnost samo druga riječ za biokemiju. Također kaže da se čini kako nam je duboko usađena želja da kaznimo one koji su nam naudili, pa čak i ako će osвета naštetiti nama više nego njima.

Mnogo je toga zanimljivog Watts ubacio i razradio, ali da bih išta više opisao morao bih otkriti previše detalja o radnji ili otkriti što se dešavalo u prethodnim romanima. Sviđa mi se i kako piše, nema tu rečenica koje bi se mogle izdvojiti kao lijepi citati, ali sviđa mi se sveprisutni ironični ton te kako je znanstvene pojmove pretvorio u uvrede. Na primjer: haploid* kao kretan, ili r-selector** kako ženski likovi pogrdno opisuju muškarce. Također ima i par sočnih kreativnih psovki koje ostavljam na otkrivanje, a zanimljiv je i nadimak *corpse* kojim likovi opisuju *corporate executives*.

Ipak Behemoth nije bez mane, gotovo je dvostruko duži od dva prethodnika i čini se predugim. Kraj je zbrzan, a u sredini ima malo razvlačenja radnje.

Watts ni dosad nije uljepšavao i izbjegavao brutalnost, ali ovdje ima par scena mučenja i seksualnog nasilja koje su prilično uznemirujuće.

Dvouvim se između etvorke i petice, ali dajem mu peticu. Watts je svoj mračni svijet bliske budućnosti opisao s dozom odličnog humora i cinizma tako da ne možeš maknuti smiješak s lica. No, svejedno sam osjetio olakšanje kada sam napustio taj svijet i čini mi se da sam za svo vrijeme čitanja zadržavao dah, pa

mislim da je postigao ono što je želio.

* - haploid - an organism or cell having only one complete set of chromosomes, ordinarily half the normal diploid number. Examples: Cells used in sexual reproduction, sperm and ova.

** - r-selector - many r-selected species tend to be opportunists, meaning that they reproduce and disperse rapidly when conditions are favorable or when a disturbance opens up a new habitat or niche for invasion.

Napomena: Peter Watts je na svojoj službenoj stranici omogućio preuzimanje ili skidanje cijelog serijala.

Linkovi:

<http://www.rifters.com/real/STARFISH.htm>

<http://www.rifters.com/real/MAELSTROM...>

<http://www.rifters.com/real/Behemoth.htm>

Cryptid says

The last book in a sci-fi psychological horror trilogy about biochemistry of guilt and kind of microbe/cybernetic apocalypse (and huge squids, of course)... pretty dark and chilling at times (no effort to pull any punches whatsoever), but also very well written and thought out science fiction... possible issues: the book, even though it is not supposed to be divided in two (as actually physically published), is telling half of its story in more of a claustrophobic microcosm deep in the ocean, while the other half takes place wholly above sea level in a post-apocalyptic landscape dealing with more global problems... it's not nearly as odd as some people find it, it makes perfect sense in the whole narrative, yet... you may just straight up dislike one of the halves - they do feel different. Also, if you've just finished reading Maelstrom, go ahead and think about Achilles Desjardins and the final twist of that book... that theme will go much much further in this one and it will not be comfortable, although you should have known by now that this isn't much of a rainbows&unicorns sort of book (somehow, there still is a lot of criticism about this... maybe people just don't read series in order or something).

Sarah says

You can download the whole Rifters series for free from the author's website here:

<http://www.rifters.com/real/shorts.htm>

Mårten Ericson says

I found Peter Watts last year when I was desperately looking for some serious sub-surface science fiction. I stumbled upon "Starfish" - the first of the four/three in this series - which blew me away more or less. The

book is simply excellent. Filled by thirst for more I soon thereafter got hold of the follow up "Maelstrom" which in return was more like a heavy punch in the face on the reader. It had nothing of the deep sea seductions or lure of its predecessor – mainly because the story took place more or less completely on dry (hence boring) land. At the time it was beyond me what Watts had decided to destroy the perfect setting of his first book in this way and to turn it into a mere computer virus drama. Eventually, by reading his blog, I came to understand that the reason for him "killing Starfish" was the fact that Watts don't seem to be able to accept the fact that his first book had actually generated fans. So it appears he felt obliged to tell them (us) to go somewhere else instead.

Strange as it seems the copywriting on the third and fourth part of the series promise a return to the deep oceans. Therefore I had to read it. However it is not an easy thing getting hold of these latter parts if you look in the stores – they are, contrary to the first two parts, out of print. Poking around again at Mr. Watts blog the reason behind this fact is supposedly some conflict with the publisher. Eventually though I found out that Watts himself was generous enough to offer his whole backlist for free at his homepage.

So about a week ago I started reading "Behemoth" (that is part 3 and 4 together in the same volume). At first it was very nice to be able to once again dive down into the dark sadistic abyss. However the more I read the more I felt something was missing. It was no longer a submarine story, it was just a story taking place beneath the sea surface, and with that I mean that I miss a ton of descriptions. The characters do what they do, they come and go, fight, talk and other things just as if they were on land - in very few places of the text do you really get the feel of a deep sea venture. Also, on the whole, the plot does not really move forward. As a reader you don't really get the feel of progression. In the end, it's hard to understand why Watts really didn't accomplish more with his superb subsea setting.

The second part of "Behemoth" – that which was part 4 in the printed version (sorry Peter but I really can do understand why the publisher wanted to part the parts) – the scene once again return to a totally different plot, again on dry land. What's even worse – the characters personality, especially Lenie Clarke's, becomes totally warped in this piece. What used to be a depressed, sadistic and violent mind in the three prequels suddenly seem to be more like a fragile indecisive lady from the 1800's. It doesn't make any sense at all – at least not to me.

In the end what started as a brilliant submarine SciFi-plot is resolved in some deserted skyscraper located far from anything interesting. Peter Watts tries to blacken the story with some sadistic sex- and torture scenes, but quite honestly (and I'm not really very sensitive to these things) I wonder if he doesn't misinterpret the effect of these scenes. The rest of series isn't sadistic in this way really, so the way he treats these things in book four seem to me to be quite out of place – almost out of being the civilized thing to write. Some scenes could have been made just as obvious with other words and descriptions.

In the end this series is for me a bit like a rollercoaster. You start at the very top in "Starfish", then you hit the bottom in "Maelstrom", go up a bit again in "Behemoth part 1" and then just kind of flatten out in the last part. Well, well, I have no idea if this review made sense to anyone else. As a last remark, Peter Watts is a very good writer; sometimes he's just superb on the detail and depth of the reality check – on the other hand, story wise, one can wish for a little bit more now and then.

Nigel says

Okay, I'm not feeling the best this morning, but I've been good and faithful in writing reviews for stuff so far, so I shall persevere. Happy Thanksgiving! That was Thursday, of course, and it's Saturday now, but we're going to have Thanksgiving dinner this evening because it's a sort of cross-Atlantic Thanksgiving and yum. Bleh.

Not much to give thanks for in Behemoth, though, other than thanks for a great book, Mr Watts! I read this one on the phone, too, which got wearying after a while, and if I hadn't been utterly caught up in seeing one horrible thing after another being inflicted on the characters and on the world I might have given up. Yay! Bleh.

Lenie and Ken are in the Atlantic with all the other Rifiers and lots of rich people who are hiding from the apocalypse in an underwater habitat called Atlantis. The Rifiers are the self-appointed prison guards of the rich, and there has been much unpleasantness, but things have been quiet lately, and Lenie finds herself on quite easy terms with some of the rich, much to the suspicion of her fellow Rifiers. So when tensions rise again and threaten to explode, she is torn between the two groups and not trusted by either. It soon becomes apparent that someone on the ravaged surface is searching for them, and Ken and Lenie have to head for the surface to neutralise the threat.

Yeah, loved it in all its apocalyptic glory. That's it. That's all I can muster to say. It's free! Read it! Read them all! Have nightmares and the screaming heebie jeebies! Then find something light and fluffy to neutralise the Watts Effect.

Lynn says

I can't bring myself to give this book a star rating, although it probably deserves 4 or 5. It was too difficult to read. There is a lot of graphic sexual violence. I had nightmares and felt physically sick at times. Yet I couldn't stop reading because I had to find out what happened to the characters I had come to care about in the first two books of the trilogy. It's a well crafted & well written story, but if I'd known how it would affect me, I might not have started the first one.

Peter says

The world is slowly dying from a nigh-unstoppable plague, a plague that Lenie Clarke unwittingly spread years ago while on a quest for personal vengeance. Clarke herself has been living under the sea, cybernetic rifiers like her living in an awkward alliance with another party partly responsible for the state of the world. That alliance is fraying, however, as a new strain of the disease is making an appearance in what they once believed their shelter, and when neither side trusts the other, it could lead to war and death for everybody. But Lenie might also get a chance to redeem herself, somewhat, and save the rest of the world outside.

This is the final installment of Peter Watts' Rifiers series, a dark near-future tale full of cybernetically enhanced psychopaths, biotech terrors, and darkness blacker than you might find at the bottom of the ocean. Yet for all that dourness and cynicism, there's a surprisingly upbeat thread you can dig out, even the ultimate villains who lack what we recognize as empathy have some redeeming qualities, even in the midst of the apocalypse there are people willing to try their best to make things right, and even a sense that our irrationality might save us from horrors that can come from "the greater good."

Although I read it in a single ebook edition, Behemoth was originally published as two separate novels (Behemoth: β -Max and Behemoth: Seppuku), split up at the publisher's request. I'm sure the author will disagree, but I actually see the logic in this, because there is a sharp division, where one plot ends and is barely even mentioned again, in order to start a new one, and it really does feel like two separate books (albeit the first one feels like a lot of setup and possibly not satisfying on its own). Each plot moves at a pretty good pace and holds interest, although where their strengths lie are divided: the first half may meander a bit more but what's going on seems more tied to the characters, while the second half is more conventionally exciting but, being mostly "on the road" lacks a bit of emotional connection. Still, neither suffers overmuch from its flaws, although the ending does come a little abruptly and left me feeling, "...that's it?" Still before it comes some pretty good twists and fascinating ideas, and I enjoyed myself reading it, although not quite as much as some of his other books. My rating teeters... I'd really rate it a 3.5, but since Goodreads doesn't do half-points, and I enjoy the author in general very much, I'll go with the 4.

The book does contain, it should be noted, some scenes of very graphic sexual violence and torture. They are relatively short, but gratuitous in detail. It'd be a mistake to assume that this reflects some perversity of the author, it's done to a what I feel is a very specific point and not for titillation value like various torture-porn movies can sometimes get. Still, I can see the mere presence of such scenes a dealbreaker to some readers who would feel too uncomfortable, and I can't blame them... they probably deserve fair warning.

Alistair says

Satisfying wind-up of the series. Typos were distracting in the later half of the book.

Natasha Hurley-Walker says

Good, but not quite as gripping as the previous two. I didn't like the way the story abruptly broke setting halfway through. The three main miserable broken characters face off against each other in a psychologically tense way, especially about two-thirds through when you're double-guessing which character is actually trying to save the world, and which is trying to destroy it. Unfortunately I felt like the women other than Lenie in the story were very much made into playthings and victims, which, while useful for building tension and making us hate the 'bad guy' more (and make us consider the good-of-the-many vs good-of-the-few moral dilemma), made me pretty uncomfortable. There's a fine line between bad things happening to your female characters and your male characters enjoying it, vs feeling it's written so that the author, or perhaps his target audience, is enjoying it. I guess I don't like reading about rape and torture, so I just have to drop stars because I just don't enjoy that... even if it makes sense for those characters, in that world.

As usual, full marks for cool physics and biology, and the extended list of references at the back. I'm sure the computer wildlife is way too optimistic for the degraded internet in such a post-apocalyptic world, but whatever, it was fun!
