

Science Fiction

Next Reads - Winter 2010

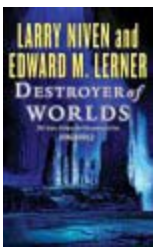
Previously Purchased Science Fiction



The Quiet War - by Paul J. McAuley

Space Opera. On a 23rd-century Earth devastated by climate change, a few powerful families and their "green saints" run repressive regimes with the goal of returning the planet to a pre-industrial Eden. Meanwhile, the wildly diverse Outers--descendants of those who rebelled against Earth's tyranny--have settled the moons of Jupiter and Saturn and made the most of the "genetic arts." The Outers are eager to colonize the rest of the galaxy and spur evolution forward...while many on Earth believe that they must be stopped. Shortlisted for the 2009 Arthur C. Clarke Award, *The Quiet War* boasts masterful world-building, superb character development, and "excellent science" (*The*

Guardian).



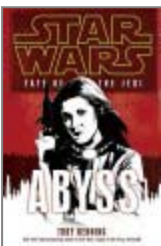
Destroyer of Worlds - by Larry Niven and Edward M. Lerner

SF. The super-intelligent alien Puppeteers have detected an enormous black hole at the center of the galaxy and, along with their human allies, are retreating toward the Fleet of Worlds. They aren't the only ones on the run from the impending disaster: the vicious Paks are also fleeing, leaving massive destruction in their wake--but the Puppeteers are too cowardly to curb the Paks' pillaging. Following *Fleet of Worlds* and *Juggler of Worlds*, this "good, old-fashioned SF, packed with ideas, philosophical musings, and plenty of space action" (*Library Journal*) wraps up the trilogy set 200 years prior to the discovery of Ringworld.



The Return - by Ben Bova

SF. In this first book set in the Voyagers universe for nearly 20 years, Hugo Award-winning author Ben Bova ties together background from his Grand Tour books and the original Voyagers trilogy. Astronaut Keith Stoner returns to Earth after a century exploring space, and the planet is nearly unrecognizable to him. Its population is exploding and its existence is threatened by disastrous flooding, ultra-conservative religious governments, scarce resources, and impending nuclear war. Determined to save the world that was once his home, Stoner must first escape the wrath of zealots who see his message from the stars as satanic.



Abyss - by Troy Denning

Space Opera. In this "must-read for Star Wars fans" (*Booklist*), Luke Skywalker and his son, Ben, venture into the fearsome Maw Cluster in their quest to determine the reasons behind Jacen Solo's turn to the dark side. Meanwhile, back on Coruscant, Han and Leia fight to protect mentally stricken Jedi knights from being frozen in carbonite by the Galactic Alliance's Chief of State, Natasi Daala. *Abyss* is the 3rd action-packed volume in a new Star Wars series penned by various authors, following Christie Golden's *Omen*.