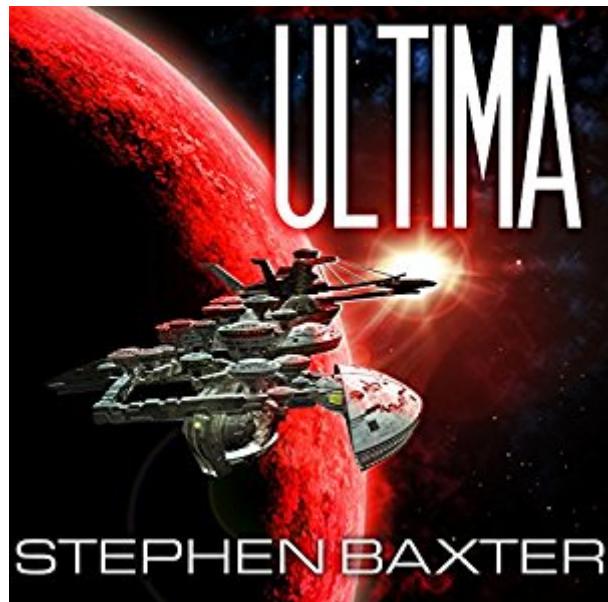


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Ultima: Proxima, Book 2



Synopsis

On the planet of Per Ardua, alien artifacts were discovered - hatches that allowed humans to step across light-years of space as if they were stepping into another room. But this newfound freedom has consequences. As humanity discovers the real nature of the universe, a terrifying truth comes to light: We all have countless pasts converging in this present - and our future is terrifyingly finite. There are minds in the universe that are billions of years old, and now we are vulnerable to their plans for us. It's time to fight back and take control.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 21 hours and 55 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 4, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B012E5LY4Y

Best Sellers Rank: #100 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > High Tech #454 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Hard Science Fiction #725 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Alien Invasion

Customer Reviews

Ultima sounds like a sports drink but it is actually the sequel to Stephen Baxter's *Proxima*. You should read *Proxima* before reading *Ultima* if you want to understand all of the novel's references to past events, but enough of those are summarized that *Ultima* can be read as a stand-alone novel. *Ultima* is a novel of big ideas -- or, more precisely, it is an exploration of one big idea. It won't appeal to science fiction fans who think that sf should always include Wookiees or Vulcans. It won't appeal to fans who crave action. It might not appeal to sf fans who think that an "idea" novel should consist of ideas piled on top of ideas (the kind of novel that usually treats plot and characterization as unimportant). I give Baxter credit for creating the Dreamers, a Machiavellian alien race that differs from other science fiction aliens in imaginative ways. Saying more about them would spoil the fun. I will say, however, that while the enigmatic Dreamers are at the novel's core, the novel focuses upon the consequences of the Dreamers' actions rather than the Dreamers themselves. *Proxima*

introduced an old idea, portals (or "hatches" in this incarnation) that take people to different places in the universe, or different universes, or different times. Hatches are coupled with transitional events that change the nature of the universes that key characters inhabit. In one alternate history/universe/timeline, there are three space faring Terran powers: the Romans, the Xin (Chinese), and the Brikanti (Brits allied with Scandinavians). The civilizations have mastered a crude form of interstellar travel (combining power sources known as kernels left by the Hatch builders with "point and shoot" navigation) despite their failure to develop computers.

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