



Diuturnity's Dawn

Alan Dean Foster

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*In the climactic third novel of the *Founding of the Commonwealth*, bestselling author Alan Dean Foster continues the spectacular space adventure that traces the perilous early years of this remarkable universe.*

...

From the beginning, contact between humankind and the thrax has been tenuous at best. Nearly a century after first contact, the likelihood of closer human/thrax relations is as far away as ever. Yet idealists on both sides refuse to surrender their dreams of achieving an alliance. Among the most dedicated are a minor diplomat named Fanielle Anjou and her thrax counterpart. Others intend to make sure such a liaison never comes to pass . . . by any means necessary.

For these xenophobes, the upcoming Humanx Inter-Cultural Fair, the first wholly cross-species event, is a hideous confirmation of their worst fears. Zealots on both sides vow it will be the last of its kind, no matter how many must die. In the coming conflagration Fanielle holds the key to triumph, but only if she can outwit those desperate to silence her forever. . . .

Diurnity's Dawn Details

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From Reader Review Diurnity's Dawn for online ebook

B. Zedan says

Dangit, Foster. Why you gotta make me want to own so many books, with all your solid and wonderful trilogies?

AND, there is rainforest in this one. SNAP.

Fred D says

This book had a lot of unexpected plot twists. I did not expect things to turn out the way they did. I mean, of course I knew the Commonwealth would be founded, but other than that, the course of events was very unexpected. I guess that's a good thing, you don't want books to be too predictable. But some things just shocked and appalled me!

Comagrave, for example. I did not expect that whole archeological team to get wiped out. Especially after they had just made an amazing discovery that left more questions than it answered. Left a giant loose end in the plot there he did. Anyway, I just couldn't believe what Pilwandepat did! I was beginning to really like his character, and then he goes off and does something like that, provoking the Aan into killing him and all his colleagues! I was dumbfounded. I actually felt sorry for the Aan. They were totally set up and framed.

And then there's Dawn. Actually, that went down mostly as I expected, but I was surprised when the 2 United Church missionaries were killed. They shouldn't even have been there when the police tried to apprehend the last 2 terrorists. What police anywhere would allow civilians to tag along while they make an arrest of some dangerous terrorists? That made no sense. However I can see how them being martyred would help along the process of forming the Commonwealth.

I've got more to say. I'll finish this tomorrow.

Indeneri says

[Also the predictability, when I read the bit about the human nu

Cheryl says

Totally brings together the United Church and the Founding of the Humanx Commonwealth, but still leaves questions, like what kind of Agents Fan'l, and her 2 co-conspirators are secretly a part of? Why not say they were members of the United Church? They certainly can't be part of the Melliorare Society, can they.

Jan says

Not by favorite series by Foster but ok.

George C. Kerr says

Good series

Another great series by adf. Well worth reading and I enjoyed it and it's informative. Should be read by all his legion of fans

Kammera says

This third book in his Commonwealth series is dragging on. A lot of dialogue over the same concepts-get on with it! About 3/4ths the way through. Okay All done! not as compelling as the first in the series.

Tina says

Of the three in the trilogy, I found this one the lesser, despite it having more Aann.

It was solid novel, overall, but it fell flat in terms of suspense. Unlike the other two, which were “collective history” of small events that led up to the Commonwealth, this one made it seem like a couple major events were the cause, which made it less suspenseful because you knew the CW was going to be formed anyway. But that’s really the only flaw.

Spoilers below!

This one also has more “main” characters than the previous two, but all get enough “screen time” to flesh them out (except the Aann – we never get to see inside their heads, but I suspect that was on purpose). When I first started writing this, Fanielle’s motivations were iffy, but now they seem pretty clear. Her boyfriend gets killed, she’s pregnant, and she’s depressed about it, but you could argue that she puts all this effort (including life-threatening activities) into forming the CW as a way to make a better life for her son. Or simply because she’s super ambitious? Because she loves her job? Do we have to *explain* that a young woman in a demanding and high-up position in her career would want to continue with it despite suffering a loss and being pregnant? No, we shouldn’t, which Foster doesn’t. Her five minutes of wanting to quit were the moments right after she woke up and was in shock. After this, she goes on a usual, which is exactly what I would do and why I really like Fanielle as a character - she *realistic*. Given how our society is inundated with stories and movies of women acting like “my baby is all that matters” when they’re pregnant or “realizing that my baby is of more importance than my career” (bullshit), I really enjoyed how she was conscious of being pregnant (because, honestly, when you’re pregnant it affects your life a lot, and not just the terrible wrenching morning sickness) but she still went on with her ambitions. Like most women. Like

me. I'm not stopping my life just because I'm growing an embryo inside me. Despite how much I feel like garbage right now.

I also liked Pilwondepat, in a way. He was kind of annoying and whiny, but his story was interesting, as well as what was happening on Comagrave. That whole side plot raised some interesting questions. We never find out: were the Aann actually intending to kick the Terrans off? Or were they creating those scenarios to show how great allies they could be? Granted, it's shifty to do what they did, but were their motives really that bad? We don't know, but that's what made this plotline intriguing – we aren't sure whether Pilwondepat was full or shit or not. Then again, I have a soft spot for the Aann so I'm probably biased.

Likewise, Preen makes some good arguments for why Aann and Terran culture should be just as intermingled as the Thranx. Personally, I don't see why they couldn't join the CW too. I mean, yeah, the Aann are kind of imperialistic and have bad blood with the Thranx, but what were they going to do? Attack Earth one day? If they were mutually tied via trade and military to the Thranx they wouldn't go around attacking them anymore, right? Why not try to have the powerful reptiloids on your side?

The Dawn plot was well done – I didn't find it that suspenseful though; I'm not sure why. It was rather ironic how the Thranx and Human terrorists had to work together. Rather heavy-handedly showed that their species could work together, but also showed how stupid xenophobia is.

The best part of the Dawn plot was the United Church. When reading the Flinx novels I was like – really, some non-secular body is that important in the future? But now I get it – it isn't a religion, but a philosophy. I really enjoyed how Briann and Twikanrozek kept shooting down all the priests and ministers who approached them. This book really helped understand what the United Church was all about in the Flinx and other novels.

There are some other great parts to this novel too: the sauna scene where Fanielle barges in naked was hilarious, the parts on Comagrave unearthing the pods were really cool, and, well, I must say, an Aann can burst into my hotel room anytime he wants to have vaguely sinister conversation. That whole scene was fantastic.

Ah screw it, five stars! I honestly think I was less into this one because I was reading it while in considerable stomach pain.

Paul E. Morph says

Not much time to review this one as it's my fortieth birthday today and my lady wife is taking me out for dinner and a movie but, suffice it to say that I loved this book! This the third part of the story of how Foster's Humanx Commonwealth was founded (well, fourth part if you include the prequel novel 'Nor Crystal Tears') and, boy, does it end with a bang!

It's been a long time since I read a book this exciting and tense... There are political machinations, terrorism, large scale battles, murder, heroism, sacrifice and twists and turns aplenty! Not everything is resolved in this volume but that's to be expected when there are another twenty-odd books in this series.

Anyway, gotta go! See you in the funny papers!

Dan says

Very good, I have some misgiving about how the humnax commonwealth was basically founded on a lie though, I wonder if this will ever come back to bite them on the arse?

Overall this series is not for those looking for fast paced action etc. It's more for those that want background info on how this humanx commonwealth came about so in essence it is about inter-species politics so expect lots of bla bla bla.
