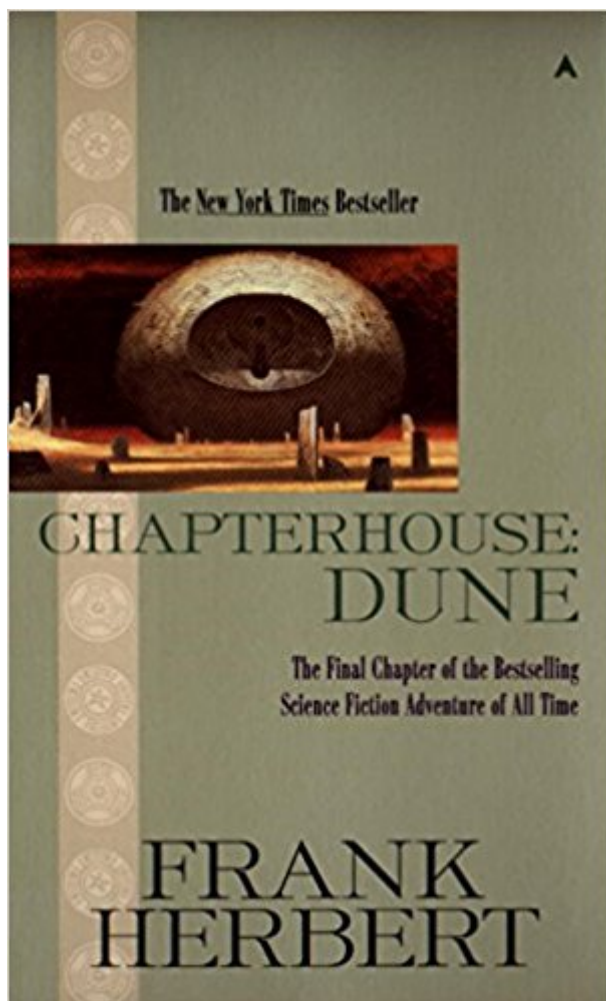


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Chapterhouse: Dune (Dune Chronicles, Book 6)



Synopsis

Frank Herbert's Final Novel in the Magnificent Dune Chronicles – the Bestselling Science Fiction Adventure of All Time The desert planet Arrakis, called Dune, has been destroyed. The remnants of the Old Empire have been consumed by the violent matriarchal cult known as the Honored Matres. Only one faction remains a viable threat to their total conquest – the Bene Gesserit, heirs to Dune's power. Under the leadership of Mother Superior Darwi Odrade, the Bene Gesserit have colonized a green world on the planet Chapterhouse, and are turning it into a desert, mile by scorched mile. And once they've mastered breeding sandworms, the Sisterhood will control the production of the greatest commodity in the known galaxy – the spice Melange. But their true weapon remains a man who has lived countless lifetimes – a man who served under the God Emperor Paul Muad'Dib...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Now that the planet Arrakis (Dune) has been annihilated, the Bene Gesserit order turns its stronghold Chapterhouse into another desert world, and from this base, the sisterhood plans its moves against ruthless rivals. Drawing on a vast store of history and religion, the book is "so rich in this one area that others suffer and the narrative crawls," PW observed. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for Chapterhouse: Dune – "Compelling...a worthy addition to this durable and

deservedly popular series. • The New York Times “The vast and fascinating Dune saga sweeps on as exciting and gripping as ever.” • Kirkus Reviews Praise for Dune “I know nothing comparable to it except Lord of the Rings.” • Arthur C. Clarke “A portrayal of an alien society more complete and deeply detailed than any other author in the field has managed...a story absorbing equally for its action and philosophical vistas.” • The Washington Post Book World “One of the monuments of modern science fiction.” • Chicago Tribune “Powerful, convincing, and most ingenious.” • Robert A. Heinlein “Herbert’s creation of this universe, with its intricate development and analysis of ecology, religion, politics and philosophy, remains one of the supreme and seminal achievements in science fiction.” • Louisville Times

This is the final book in the original Dune series. It was enjoyable, but slow in some parts. I pushed through anticipating the resolution of a magnificent saga, only to be disappointed. The book ended with a total cliffhanger. I don’t know if my lackluster impression of the book was secondary to having read the entire series at once, being Dune’d out, or Herbert being old and running out of new ideas. Still, a must read for Dune fans.

In Chapterhouse Dune, the usual players are back with the Bene Gesserit and the Bene Tleilaxu coupled with the Honored Matres, who are hell-bent on destroying everything in their path coming back from Leto the Second’s Great Scattering. Previously, the reader briefly meets the Honored Matres, the corrupt offspring of the Bene Gesserit sent out into the Scattering and Heretics of Dune ends with the capture of a valuable Honored Matre in Murbella. Fast forward to the present and Murbella is becoming more and more heavily influenced by the Bene Gesserit and starts to give up her Honored Matre roots to become a full Reverend Mother. In Chapterhouse Dune, Murbella becomes a valuable tool for the Bene Gesserit, both in giving them invaluable insight into the ways and ideas of the Honored Matres but also as a valuable advisor to the Sisterhood itself. In addition, the Bene Tleilaxu are being wiped out in incredible numbers from both the Honored Matres from the Scattering and their own corrupt Tleilaxu that came back from the Scattering. As indicated earlier, the Honored Matres are back from the Scattering and hell-bent on not only destroying every planet in Leto’s Old Empire, but intently seek the Bene Gesserit’s home planet of Chapterhouse Dune so that they may have a firm rule on the galaxy once and for all. Yet, there are some questions surrounding the Honored Matres that the Bene Gesserit begin to ask. Why are the Honored Matres

back from the Scattering? Is it strictly their hatred of the Bene Gesserit and all it represents? Or were they driven back from the Scattering by someone or something? These questions are answered in Chapterhouse and the answers are fairly surprising. In come the Bene Gesserit and their quest to save the known empire. Odrade is now a full Mother Superior stepping in for the deceased Mother Superior Taraza. A lot of the issues that faced Taraza are on Odrade's plate now. A lot of the book revolves around Odrade's "mysterious plan" that she lets others in on in bits and pieces. However, Odrade throughout a lot of the book goes against the typical Bene Gesserit grain and she must balance maintaining order within the Bene Gesserit and its few factions with battling the Honored Matres against the slaughtering of all of the planets they've worked so hard to populate. There are a few new cogs in her plan as Murbella comes to their side, as Sheeana gradually begins her training for the Bene Gesserit, and a new ghola of an old friend from Heretics of Dune are all part of Odrade's new plan. What I liked a lot about this book was the fact that the Bene Gesserit finally SEEM to be human. For the past 5 books or so, all the reader saw was a very manipulative religious sect that did whatever it could as long as it benefited the Bene Gesserit line. If it didn't benefit humanity too then that was just too bad. Chapterhouse Dune gives the Sisterhood a very human side as their new Mother Superior in Odrade struggles against time honored traditions and rules of the Bene Gesserit in her attempt to adapt the Bene Gesserit into the modern world and for once, saving humanity as well. The main reason I give this book only 4 stars, is the fact that the final battle between the Bene Gesserit and Honored Matres was a disappointment overall. I expected a little bit more of an epic battle/struggle/etc that what transpired in the last 40 pages or so. In addition, an improbable solution between the Bene Gesserit and Honored Matres seems a little ridiculous after their vicious hatred for each other and especially their histories throughout the last 2 books or so. Then the Tleilaxu getting very little face time in Chapterhouse and being passively slaughtered without a big fight really was a little disappointing. They were such an intriguing group in the whole plot against Paul, Leto II, and the Bene Gesserit. Yet, despite my few complaints towards the end, I still absolutely loved Chapterhouse Dune. I haven't enjoyed a series this much since I read Stephen King's Dark Tower Series and J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Series. As others have said, Herbert spent 6 years just researching the concepts that would make the Dune Series alone and in a great portion of the books, you can tell it's very well-researched and thought out. Couple that with the fact that a lot of these books are going for bargain prices on Marketplace makes the series an even more attractive one to any potential Dune readers. I almost gave up on the Dune Series 3 years ago when I couldn't understand the first book in Dune. The terminology sometimes is difficult, but my best advice would be just to read through it. Particularly do a lot of

your glossary reading in the first book and even though there aren't any glossaries in the rest of the books, you can deduce a lot of terms just from the first book alone. Above all, Thank you Frank Herbert for some of the best science fiction I've read.-Travis

The final book in the series, takes place immediately after the events in book five. Essentially it is this: Darwi Odrade is Mother Superior of the Bene Gesserit, and has to contend with the drastic changes that she herself helped to effect in the previous book. The Bene Gesserit are under sustained attack by the Honoured Matres, with few allies in sight. Using technology gained from the Bene Tleilax (before they too were destroyed), the Sisterhood has created a ghola of Miles Teg, who needs training and education. The former Honoured Matre, Murbella, is also being groomed for Bene Gesserit schemes, along with her lover, Duncan Idaho. Only one Bene Tleilax survives, Scytale, but he does little except grumble in captivity. And in a wildly bizarre and underwritten subplot, a group of Jews decide to help the Bene Gesserit. Chapterhouse: Dune ends with some violence that seems unexplained and abrupt, and then Murbella suddenly takes centre stage, and the Bene Gesserit finally achieve victory, bringing this six book saga to a fulfilling close.

I really enjoy reading Chapterhouse: Dune as the last book in Frank Herbert's six-book Dune series. I've read the entire series more than 20 times (at least once per year since I read Dune for the first time) and I continue to enjoy all the books. Highly recommended.

To this reader, Chapterhouse: Dune, is as essential as the the first book itself. By this time in the series we readers are demanding answers to some of the most intriguing mysteries ever woven into the fabric of space of time within a science fiction universe. And this book absolutely delivers those answers with astonishing impact. Through a writing style that itself is fluid and seamless the reader materializes firmly in the mesmerizing Dune universe. The wrap up to the series, Chapterhouse does something few series ever achieve: it ends things brilliantly.

Solid conclusions to Herbert's original series with the caveat that none of his stories actually end the "history" he has built the people of his Universe.

Reread the entire series recently. I read them originally when they were first published. This is the last one Frank wrote (as opposed to his son Brian). This one is as well written and has as interesting a plot as the others (except the first, Dune). Lots of thoughtful discussion and philosophy

about religion, the purpose of life and government. A bit more action than Heretics and God Emperor. What struck me about rereading it this after all these years is how relevant a lot of it is still. (It also shows how a lot of what is written today is pretty shallow.) I won't say it is a book for everyone, but if you like serious SF, this book and series are a must read.

I would ready anything that Frank Herbert wrote, and in fact I did, anything and everything. I am very sad there is nothing else.

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