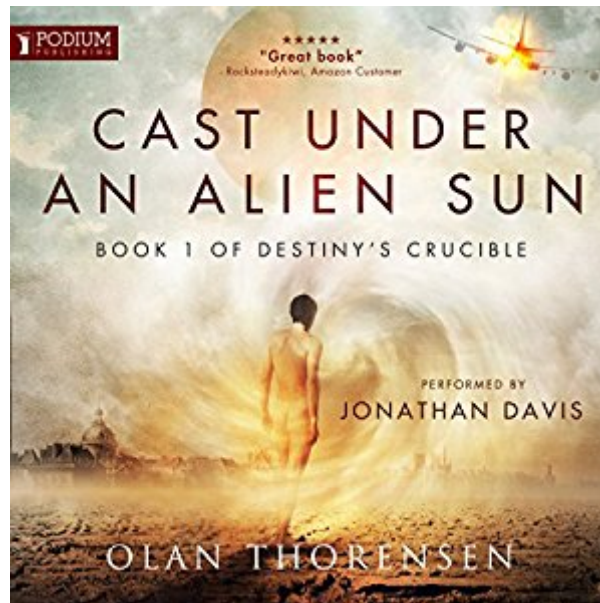


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Cast Under An Alien Sun: Destiny's Crucible, Book 1



Synopsis

What if you were thrown into a foreign society, never to see home again? What would you do, and could you survive? Joe Colsco boarded a flight from San Francisco to Chicago to attend a national chemistry meeting. He would never set foot on Earth again. On planet Anyar, Joe is found unconscious on a beach of a large island inhabited by humans where the level of technology is similar to Earth circa 1700. He awakes amid strangers speaking an unintelligible language and struggles to accept losing his previous life and finding a place in a society with different customs, needing a way to support himself and not knowing a single soul. His worry about finding a place is assuaged when he finds ways to apply his knowledge of chemistry - as long as he is circumspect in introducing new knowledge not too far in advance of the planet's technology and being labelled a demon. As he adjusts, Joe finds that he has be dropped into a developing clash between the people who cared for him, and for whom he develops an affinity, and a military power from elsewhere on the planet - a power with designs on conquest. Unaware, Joseph Colsco has been poured into a crucible where time and trials will transform him in ways he could never have imagined. Cast Under an Alien Sun is a story that's science fiction in premise, adventure in execution - a cross-genre adventure with elements of science fiction, history, hard science, epic fantasy, time travel, romance, alien contact, and space colonization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The writing is very good. Sentence structure is smooth and enables the flow of the story. The story

itself it has elements in common with all books like this. They are all the "man who matters" tales, but I truly like the idea. This particular take is very good. There are some things that need more explanation or integration. For example, who makes and where do all the muskets, swords and cannons come from? They seem to imply a substantially greater industrial base. The central character is well constructed and sympathetic. He has a real internal life. The female lead character is likewise well constructed. Overall, this is an excellent beginning to the series. I have already bought and read the second book, and am looking forward to the next.

Saw it. Rented it on Kindle Unlimited. Returned it. Bought it. Bought the next in the series sight unseen. This is not your "usual" guy gets transported into the past, invents everything with no difficulties and lives happily ever after. This is a "to keep" author for me.

The theme of this series is of a type that I call "A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court" a modern person applying our scientific knowledge and technology to a pre enlightenment culture. Lots of these stories have been written, I enjoy most of them and this is no exception. Well written, morally valid, thought provoking and all round good escapism.

All of a sudden thrown into a civilization on another planet far less advanced than current earth. Joseph now must decide how he can contribute to their growth. Very detailed and well written.

Thoroughly enjoyable! Original plot, none of the annoying (hilarious really) spell-check anomalies or truly annoying semi illiteracy often encountered in indie publications. The characters are well developed as is the general story line. I suppose the best recommendation is that I've read and enjoyed the 4 books 2.5 times.

The story is great with well developed characters. I really give it a 4.5 rating. The only hangup is that the writing style is a bit amateur. The story is told more through descriptive paragraphs than conversation between characters.

I enjoyed this first book in a series of three. In fact I have not finished all three in the series reading them one at a time. I found the book to be a good read as well as giving me a few thoughts to ponder.

Cast Under an Alien Sun falls under a genre I've dubbed "God Mode." This is a term borrowed from Pen and Paper gaming, such as Dungeons and Dragon's. The term is applied when a player, or the game master, executes actions that go outside the rules of the game and often violates the overall story of the adventure. For this reason, 'God Moding' is considered a bad thing to be avoided. However, it is a popular way to tell stories and it's possible for them to be quite enjoyable, especially when a majority of books focus on characters who can never seem to get things right are in a never-ending struggle to get absolutely nowhere until the climax hits and suddenly the stars align and something happens for once. Most God Mode stories are... bad. They have sub-par writing and horrible plots to match. They come off as simple 'streams-of-thought' from an author is living out some day dream fantasy they have. They get access to some amazing super computer or AI that allows them to build fleets of spaceships or become superhuman in general. They never have any real difficulty with their adversaries or issues. It's straight ego-stroking, really. Like I said, this can be enjoyable, but for the most part they're boring or too badly written to read. However, that is NOT the case with Cast Under an Alien Sun. The author is obviously intelligent, had a wide range of experiences, and a decent sense of humor. Not to say the book is comedy, but you can tell that the author understands that what he is writing is straight God Moding and because of that the story is serious, but not so serious that it comes off as a stream of thought manual on how badass the protagonist is. Quite the opposite. The author feels like your average twenty-something, maybe in his early thirties, who is an academic and has been put in a situation he doesn't fully understand and is trying to make the best of it. The author pulls this off so well, that I honestly thought he was a twenty-something gamer because of his references to science fiction pop-culture and gaming. It appears that he is actually an older man, though. So I have to chalk that up to the authors writing skill. There are some minor issues, which keeps the book from being five stars. For example, some of the pacing is a bit... skippy. There are also a few places in the book where the timing of things gets confusing. For example, the author will describe something happening, then explain how this has effected the protagonist over a prolonged period, then jump back to before the effects of his choice actually occurred. Chances are, reading that confused you. Now imagine that in the form of a handful of paragraphs. Yeah. The book is an honest-to-goodness page turner. I'm generally a fast reader, but I usually pace myself. I couldn't this time around. I just wanted to see what happened. I'm a gamer, and a lot of the novel was a LOT like reading the logs of an interesting Real Time Strategy or Life Simulation game. The closest I would put it to is The Guild 2: Renaissance. I never thought I would ever compare a novel to a RTS/Life Simulator. I'm also the type that reads the sample before buying, even if I loved the first book. However, with the second book in this series I

simply bought it right off the bat as soon as I finished *Cast Under an Alien Sun*. The story was just too enticing to put down and leave alone. I'm also happily surprised that the author is incredibly competent to go along with his skill. Books three and four will be release over the next couple of months (November and Decembers respectively). If the option were available to me, I would go ahead and pre-order them both. I love it when I don't have to wait a year or more between volumes. In November, this story will still be fresh in my mind and I'll still be hungry for more. I also look forward to the next thing Olan works on under this pen name. I'm interested in his other pen names, if he has any (he hints at it in his bio) because I feel like this could be my new favorite indie author.

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