

Incandescence

By Greg Egan

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Incandescence By Greg Egan

The long-awaited new novel from Greg Egan! Hugo Award-winning author Egan returns to the field with Incandescence, a new novel of hard SF.
The Amalgam spans nearly the entire galaxy, and is composed of innumerable beings from a wild variety of races, some human or near it, some entirely other. The one place that they cannot go is the bulge, the bright, hot center of the galaxy. There dwell the Aloof, who for millions of years have deflected any and all attempts to communicate with or visit them. So when Rakesh is offered an opportunity to travel within their sphere, in search of a lost race, he cannot turn it down.
Roi is a member of that lost race, which is not only lost to the Amalgam, but lost to itself. In their world, there is but toil, and history and science are luxuries that they can ill afford.
Rakesh's journey will take him across millennia and light years. Roi's will take her across vistas of learning and discovery just as vast.

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Incandescence By Greg Egan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Hugo-winner Egan (*Schild's Ladder*), champion of ultra-hard SF, devotes most of this slim novel to the efforts of the Arkmakers, who live in a neutron star's accretion disk at the center of the galaxy, to develop orbital physics from first principles and save the artificial world created by their more sophisticated ancestors. Meanwhile, Rakesh, a more or less human member of a distant posthuman society, sets off on an unrelated quest to find the Arkmakers and is soon trying to save them from their current danger. Whole chapters are devoted to physics problems and include a variety of diagrams and cited sources. Egan's briefly sketched characters and cultures are interesting, but this one is all about the science and won't have much interest for those without at least some understanding of celestial mechanics. *(Oct.)*
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From Bookmarks Magazine
All critics who considered *Incandescence* were fascinated by it. They loved Egan's descriptions of a galaxy-spanning, posthuman civilization and the intellectual acrobatics necessary to understand how bugs on a splinter of rock think about their universe. But as with many of Egan's books, one's enjoyment may not be complete unless one can keep up with the physics, of which there is no shortage. "Especially when he's showing how Roi's people derive what amounts to Einstein's theory of relativity in a very different gravitational field from Earth's, readers may feel compelled to skim," noted the critic of Io9.com. Reviewers did not exactly criticize this feature of the book but merely noted it as an essential feature of the "hard" science fiction of which Egan is one of the leading lights.Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC

From Booklist
The Milky Way has been thoroughly explored and cataloged, and journeying among its networked worlds, called the Amalgam, is a simple matter of digital transmission. People in the Amalgam exist indefinitely in digital form, able to assume any race when they are “embodied,” millennia passing as if only hours. The only unknown is the bulge, home to the Aloof, who resist all communications. Rakesh, who has fruitlessly searched for something new, cannot pass up the opportunity to enter the bulge when a stranger asks him to locate a lost race. Paralleling Rakesh’s investigation is the story of that lost race, a collective of drones with no knowledge of themselves and their world. That changes when two citizens wake from dormancy, sparking an epidemic of scientific discovery that ultimately will save their world. The driving forces of this novel are a pure scientific puzzle and the intellectual joy of finding answers; Egan wastes little effort on character and conflict. Those who like their science hard will appreciate his thorough research and intricate speculations. -- Krista Hutley

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary York:

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Walter Reeves:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Incandescence, you can enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Greg Little:

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