

Chung Kuo

The Urth list — 7 messages, 5 voices, 28 Dec 2013

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6497>

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Antonin Scriabin — 28 Dec 2013, 22:56

Has anyone here read the Chung Kuo series by David Wingrove? It seems intriguing. I was wondering about the reading order, since it is being re-released in a 20 volume version that adds a lot of content to the original 8 volume sequence. I have the first three volumes of the original sequence, and if I like it, I want to read it in the best order. Thanks guys!

antonio at gmail.com — 29 Dec 2013, 00:06 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

I'd never heard of it, but from WP the rerelease appears not to change the order, only include stuff before and in the middle and the author's original intended ending. Have you read any of it? It sounds like the kind of thing my household would enjoy... unless it is all joyrides and no ideas.

No dia 28/12/2013, ?s 22:56, Antonin Scriabin <kierkegaurdian at gmail.com> escreveu:

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Antonin Scriabin — 29 Dec 2013, 00:15 · in reply to antonio at gmail.com

Well I only just started the (traditionally) first volume, The Middle Kingdom. It seems so far to strike a balance between big, expansive sci-fi (lots of big ideas to go with the setting) and the personal experiences of a host of characters. Seems worth it so far!

On Dec 28, 2013 6:58 PM, <antonio at gmail.com> wrote:

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 29 Dec 2013, 01:16 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

I read the first volume and was reasonably impressed, but never got around to the following v's.

On Sat, Dec 28, 2013 at 4:15 PM, Antonin Scriabin

<kierkegaardian at gmail.com> wrote:

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David Duffy — 02 Jan 2014, 00:19 · in reply to Antonin Scriabin

On Sun, 29 Dec 2013, Antonin Scriabin wrote:

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I did read all eight as they appeared at our local library, but I became a bit disappointed as things progressed, and was glad it finished. So maybe liking the first three volumes wouldn't be enough ;).

I didn't think the plot justified the length, that the technologies needed seemed unnaturally constricted in scope (if one can do X, then Y would be just as easy - if it was fantasy then I wouldn't have this problem), and a few rather nasty scenes. The "meta" worry I had, which might seem weird to some, was whether Chinese culture was being adequately represented - I dislike obvious retellings of historical events (Napoleonic wars anyone?), and of stereotyping of non-European societies. There are a few set pieces from the series that stick in my memory though.

Just 2c,

David Duffy.

David Stockhoff — 02 Jan 2014, 01:33 · in reply to David Duffy

On 1/1/2014 7:19 PM, David Duffy wrote:

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I also read only The Middle Kingdom, and had the same concerns---not weird at all.

Antonin Scriabin — 02 Jan 2014, 02:16 · in reply to David Stockhoff

I'm nearing the end of volume 1, and like it. There are only so many ways the story can go, however.

On Jan 1, 2014 8:34 PM, "David Stockhoff" <dstockhoff at verizon.net> wrote:

On 1/1/2014 7:19 PM, David Duffy wrote:

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