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The Dune Encyclopedia: The Complete, Authorized Guide and Companion to Frank Herbert's Masterpiece of the Imagination

Frank Herbert

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Frank Herbert : The Dune Encyclopedia: The Complete, Authorized Guide and Companion to Frank Herbert's Masterpiece of the Imagination before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dune Encyclopedia: The Complete, Authorized Guide and Companion to Frank Herbert's Masterpiece of the Imagination:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Very Detailed and Thought-provoking Book With a Strong Real-World MessageBy CustomerMy girlfriend (now wife) gave me a full set of Dune Book-Club books back in the 1980's. This Dune Encyclopedia came with it. I found it very details and thought-provoking. My original copy was long-lost. But recently, I found this same Book-Club version on to replace my missing original.The best science fiction takes us outside our normal frame of reference and then shows us the things we already know, but in a fresh light and from a new perspective. After reading the original Dune novels, the reader can then glean a lot about the way real history (both religious and secular) is written by reading the Dune Encyclopedia. We all filter history through our own prejudices and current social norms. And this book fairly well replicates that effect based on the society created in the Dune novels.Today, I almost never read a historical or religious book without thinking about this filtering effect first demonstrated to me in the Dune Encyclopedia.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The best Dune book

not written by Frank HebrertBy CustomerExcellent work, both imaginative and faithful, so very superior to the so-called "prequels" and "sequels!" This is what the Duniverse was about!18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. WonderousBy CV CoupleOnly the Tolkein reference by Prof. Robert Foster ("The Complete Guide to Middle Earth") supasses it in scope, erudition and pure delight. That having been said, this book was one of my most treasured, "read till my fingers bled" books. It had so much information--obviously culled from Herbert's own files, which he slyly hints at in the introduction whilst reserving all final answers to himself--on the Dune universe it was a pleasure itself.It is not a dry, academic exercise, but a living appreciation of the book and the complexity of the universe it unfolds. So much information is provided here on many things that are mere hints or receive barely mention in the books are explained as thoroughly as the Britannica (and often much better written!).My tragedy is that the book disappeared on a move (along with every Dune book of which I had multiple copies, in hard, trade and mass-market). It simply vanished. I still miss that book to this day. With all the renewed interest in Dune, with the specatular "Children of Dune" mini-series and the bestselling "prequels" of the Younger Herbert, it stuns me that Berkeley hasn't reprinted this book. Even a mass-market (tho' of course it should be trade) would be great.But I seem to be hoping in vain. The Dune revival has been going on for several years now and nary a peep about a reprint. I near despair. The wife would have much more than a conipation fit if I spend \$50 on a fifteen year old paperback, so I guess I'm hosed.For the Dune scholar the book is indispensable and I wish I had my copy in my hand (with each of my favorite subjects tabbed, with my favorite passages highlighted--I'd planned a Dune role playing game during the days before the GUI allowed role-playing games to become what they always could).If you've got this book, guard it like gold, or, better yet, have it bound and keep in mylar.See, Berkeley, please hear my prayer: REPRINT THIS BOOK!!!!(Oh yeah, and, while I'm asking, how 'bout a God Emperor of Dune mini, hunh?)As a coda: my copy of the Dune Encylclopedia was with my ancient, book club edition of God Emperor which I recently found in our town's annual library sale. I knew it was mine by the Boris Vallejo "Ex Libris" sticker. So somebody, somewhere has my books!

From the dust jacket: Compiled by Dr. Willis E. McNelly At last. The complete, authorized guide and companion to Frank Herbert's monumental Dune Chronicles. Eight years in the making, filled with original, never-before-published material, THE DUNE ENCYCLOPEDIA reveals all the mystery, savagery and wonder of a remarkable world in panoramic detail. How did Muad'Dib get his name. What are the three ranks of adepts within the Order of Mentats. Who are the Fish Speakers, and what is their link to Duncan Idaho. How does a stillsuit work. What are the hidden origins of the Spacing Guild. Where did the techniques for spice-trance navigation develop. Just a hint of the information contained within the pages of this unique encyclopedia - along with the poetry from the Imperium, Fremen lore, legends, even illustrations of Sardaukar Medals, the Giant Sandworm of Arrakis and more. As Frank Herberts says in his introductory note to this intensively researched, meticulously cross-referenced volume: Here is a rich background (and foreground) for the Dune Chronicles, including scholarly bypaths and amusing sidelights. Some of the contributions are sure to arouse controversy. ... Others round out long speculation. Specialists have had their field day with problems geological, biological, astronomical, and mystical. ... The result: an enthralling, enlightening volume no DUNE reader will want to be without.