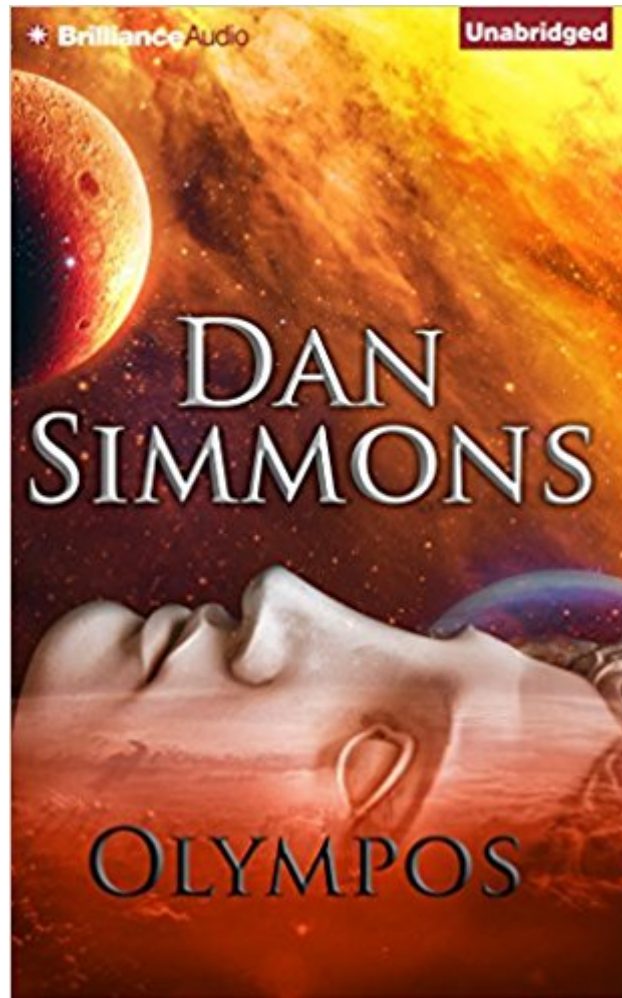




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Olympos



Synopsis

Beneath the gaze of the gods, the mighty armies of Greece and Troy met in fierce and glorious combat, scrupulously following the text set forth in Homer's timeless narrative. But that was before twenty-first-century scholar Thomas Hockenberry stirred the bloody brew, causing an enraged Achilles to join forces with his archenemy Hector and turn his murderous wrath on Zeus and the entire pantheon of divine manipulators; before the swift and terrible mechanical creatures that catered for centuries to the pitiful idle remnants of Earth's human race began massing in the millions, to exterminate rather than serve. And now all bets are off.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Welcome back to the Trojan War gone round the bend. Hector and Achilles have joined forces against the Olympic Gods. Back on a future Earth, assorted creatures from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* get ready to rumble in a winner-takes-the-universe battle royale. And amid it all, a group of confused mere mortals with their classically trained robot allies (from Jupiter no less) race across time and space to keep from getting squashed as the various Titans of the Western Canon square off. Confused? It's all part of Dan Simmons's *Olympos*, a novel one part fun-with-quantum-physics and two parts through-the-looking-glass survey of Western Literature. Picking up where he left off in the high-wire act *Ilium*, Simmons doesn't disappoint. Not only is *Olympos* excellent hard science fiction and grand space opera, it's a riveting and fast-paced book that is alternately shocking, thrilling, and often deftly hilarious as his hapless human creations wrestle the forces of literary

history itself. Be sure to read *Ilium* first though. That and a more-than passing familiarity with *The Iliad* might come in handy for the journey to Mars, *Ilium*'s far-off shores, and the Earth that might be.

--Jeremy Pugh .com Exclusive Content Master of the Universes: An Exclusive Interview with Dan Simmons Changing genres as easily as others change clothes, bestselling author Dan Simmons has written horror, mystery, historical fiction, thrillers, fantasy, and science fiction. In this .com exclusive interview, he talks about his latest SF triumph, *Olympos*, a tale of Mars, the Greek gods, and survival in a post-human world. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Drawing from Homer's *Iliad*, Shakespeare's *Tempest* and the work of several 19th-century poets, Simmons achieves another triumph in this majestic, if convoluted, sequel to his much-praised *Ilium* (2003). Posthumans masquerading as the Greek gods and living on Mars travel back and forth through time and alternate universes to interfere in the real Trojan War, employing a resurrected late 20th-century classics professor, Thomas Hockenberry, as their tool. Meanwhile, the last remaining old-style human beings on a far-future Earth must struggle for survival against a variety of hostile forces. Superhuman entities with names like Prospero, Caliban and Ariel lay complex plots, using human beings as game pieces. From the outer solar system, an advanced race of semiorganic Artificial Intelligences, called moravecs, observe Earth and Mars in consternation, trying to make sense of the situation, hoping to shift the balance of power before out-of-control quantum forces destroy everything. This is powerful stuff, rich in both high-tech sense of wonder and literary allusions, but Simmons is in complete control of his material as half a dozen baroque plot lines smoothly converge on a rousing and highly satisfying conclusion. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What an imaginative and inspiring story of both fictional and nonfictional aspects! It delves into the heaviest questions that life has to throw at us!! The moral dilemmas are handled artfully and with a grace so few authors can achieve! Simmons lovely friend Keats once again makes an appearance with *Hyperion* references while adorable and inspirational robots interact with figures from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*!! This futuristic take on brave new world is a must read for any with a passion for Greek mythology or *Star Trek* alike!! From Multi dimensional Earth to *Ion* this book will give you an adventurous journey without the dumbing down so many novels use in this modern age of ease!

Others have already said it better, but I feel compelled to register my lack of stars for *Olympos*. When I started this book, I couldn't understand all the negative reviews. I thought, they must not know what they are talking about. But how right they are-- the last half of the book is completely by-the-numbers. Like another reviewer said, either Simmons got writer's block or the publisher told him to wrap it up, because the ending here not only lacked creativity and imagination, it lacked coherence, and completely dodged the point of the book! The entire *Ilium/Olympos* story was based on setting up a huge list of complex questions, conflicts, and mysteries...those questions, rather than the flimsy characters, keep the reader turning page after page, anxious to see the entire scheme laid out by the end...Unfortunately, that never happens. One minute the book seems to set up a gigantic final act in which all conflicts will play out and all questions get resolved...and a few pages later you are reading "and they all lived happily ever after!" This book is a testament to squandered genius. The concept and set up were deliriously complicated and multi-faceted, incredibly rich with ideas both literary and scientific. That all gets abandoned for a cop-out ending that leaves the reader feeling cheated.

The sequel and conclusion to "*Ilium*," this is one of the most wildly imaginative far-future SF sagas ever concocted. Simmons is a writer of wide range, combining fast-moving action, complex plot, wonderful variety of characters, breathtaking descriptions, and audacity of invention. And he combines a literate popular style with literary and philosophic explorations: hearing two cyborgs discussing Shakespeare and Proust is an unusual treat, to say the least! Not to mention a replay of the Trojan War with cosmic implications. This is a page-turner that cannot be put down; and if you have literary interests that encompass Homer, Shakespeare, and Proust, that is just so much gravy.

After really enjoying *Ilium* and looking forward to book 2, I was very let down by *Olympos*. The focus shifted away from the Trojan war and the more interesting question of "what are the Gods" to the Old Styles Struggles against Caliban's god, Setebos. New characters are introduced without much backstory (Seriously? the Sycorax/Odysseus story made no sense). While some questions are sort of answered (vaguely and almost always in an exposition dump by the Moravecs), I didn't find the story nearly as interesting. It feels like Simmons (who I generally enjoy) mashed two separate novels together, which just didn't lead to a coherent experience. There was little closure to the story (no showdown with Setebos or Caliban, the main villains of the piece) and it feels like Simmons was setting up a sequel, which never actually got written. In conclusion, if you were hoping for a continuation of the (excellent) first story, with more Trojan war shenanigans and fun

with the pseudo Greek gods, you won't really get that in this volume. I was very disappointed.

Some of the best Sci-fi/fantasy writing out there. Right in line with Asimov, Clarke, and K.S. Robinson.

This second half of the story that starts with Ilium, is as much of a fine romp as the first half. Simmons takes the various sources of the Trojan War, the garden of Eden, the Greek pantheon, Shakespeare, Proust, and a secret concoction of religious seasonings, puts them in a quantum blender and pours out a riotous tale. I was concerned by some of the reviews I read before I read the book that suggested the story threads would fray, the stitching would come undone, and confusion would proceed a level of dissatisfaction. None of this occurred for me. Just like any reading of Shakespeare or the Iliad will cause a thinking reader to imagine what would have happened if, or what happens next, or what if this turn in the play took a different road - Simmons has set his mind loose to imagine what would happen. This story starts in the future, likely in an alternate universe, and already is filled with post-humans who have become essentially gods after all. Not much of a stretch to wonder what happens next. Loads of characters to adore, despise, enjoy, and marvel at. And some thought provoking ideas along the way on how immortality can lend itself to mounds of bad behavior. I'm among the ranks of those who found the moravecs among the most interesting characters. In an age when restarting mythologies and retelling familiar stories with new twists is popular, it would be grand to see these characters come to life on an IMAX screen near me. Or a Turin cloth, once they are perfected. Plenty of material here for a movie trilogy or more.

The amazing conclusion to the tale begun on Ilium, Dan Simmons does it again : action, romance, comedy, cool sci-fi gadgets.

I think these books are brilliant. Simmons uses literary reference in his books (such as the Keats Cantos in Hyperion) which all readers should know. I think these are such a great introduction to all of those epics of the past. Olympus certain goes to some very interesting places, and that's what makes it a real masterpiece.

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