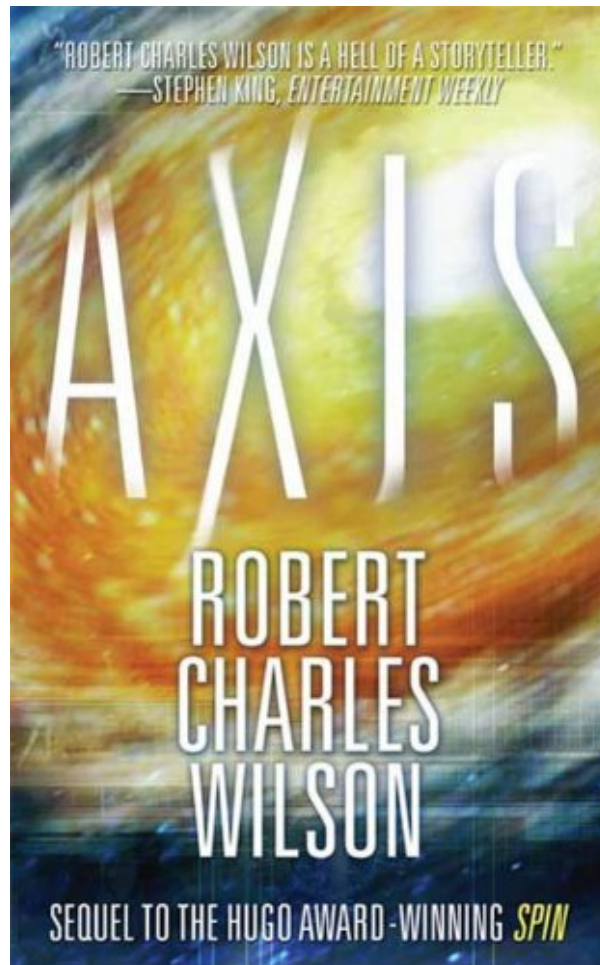
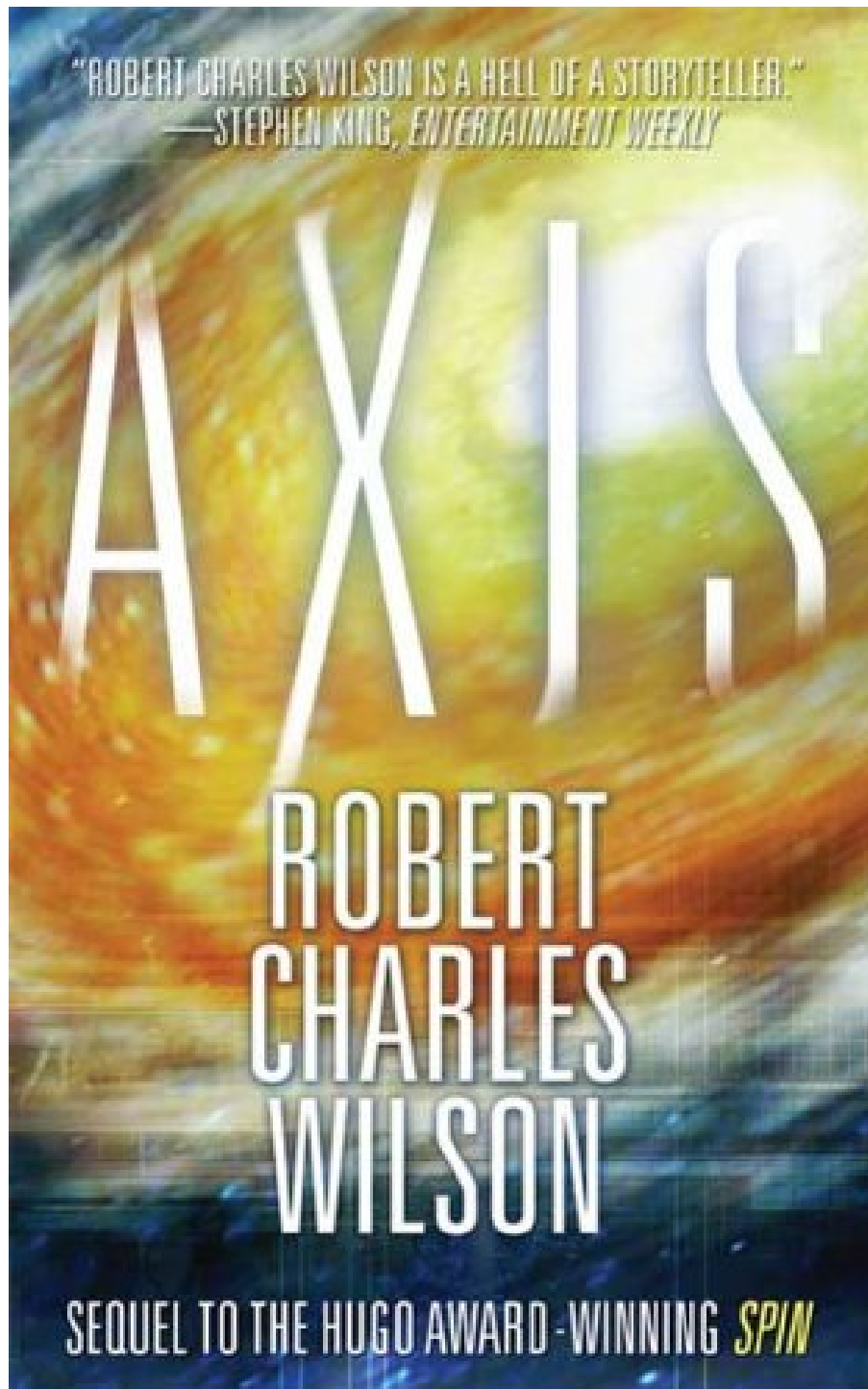


AXIS (SPIN BOOK 2) BY ROBERT CHARLES WILSON



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From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this outstanding sequel to Wilson's Hugo-winning *Spin* (2005), we are taken to the mysterious planet Equatoria, a world apparently engineered for humanity by the inscrutable machine intelligences known as the Hypotheticals. Turk Findley, a man with a criminal past, runs an aeronautical charter service on the newly settled planet. Lise Adams, who hires Turk, is a would-be journalist searching for her vanished father, a scientist obsessed with the Hypotheticals and their illegal life extension technology. Meanwhile, young Isaac, genetically manipulated by rogue scientists so that he may become a conduit between humanity and the AIs, is coming of age, and something enormous and unknown is assembling itself far underground. The various science and thriller plot elements are successful, but this is first and foremost a novel of character. Turk and Lise, who might well be played by Bogart and Bacall, are powerfully drawn protagonists, and their strong presence in the novel makes the wonders provided all the more satisfying. Those unfamiliar with *Spin* may flounder a bit, but Wilson's fans will be ecstatic. (Sept.)

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Schroeder, Regina

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AXIS (SPIN BOOK 2) BY ROBERT CHARLES WILSON PDF

Wildly praised by readers and critics alike, Robert Charles Wilson's *Spin* won science fiction's highest honor, the Hugo Award for Best Novel.

Now, in *Axis*, *Spin*'s direct sequel, Wilson takes us to the "world next door"—the planet engineered by the mysterious Hypotheticals to support human life, and connected to Earth by way of the Arch that towers hundreds of miles over the Indian Ocean. Humans are colonizing this new world—and, predictably, fiercely exploiting its resources, chiefly large deposits of oil in the western deserts of the continent of Equatoria.

Lise Adams is a young woman attempting to uncover the mystery of her father's disappearance ten years earlier. Turk Findley is an ex-sailor and sometimes-drifter. They come together when an infall of cometary dust seeds the planet with tiny remnant Hypothetical machines. Soon, this seemingly hospitable world will become very alien indeed—as the nature of time is once again twisted, by entities unknown.

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Not bad, but weaker in terms of character than Spin.

By frumiousb

I was actually kind of surprised to see that this book has generated some very lukewarm reviews. I have to admit that in several respects, I liked it quite a bit better than Spin. It isn't perfect, and I'm going to note that it has a certain forgetability. It was a bit more than a month ago that I read it, and I had trouble remembering how it ended. This is bad, because the ending is kind of important for the world that Wilson is building.

There are some now-familiar themes in the book: distributed alien machines, singularity, the nature of immortality. I find it so interesting that no matter how the vehicle changes with the current science, life extension remains such a preoccupation in science fiction. I was a *little* less taken with the characters than I was in Spin-- this book felt more about the story than about the people. Perhaps why it was more forgettable?

One thing that I do remember well is that Wilson used some horror tropes here to entertaining effect. Nicely done genre-busting, in any case.

I would recommend this to people who enjoyed Spin as long as they keep their expectations in check. I am also looking forward to Vortex.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

'Axis' Not As Good As Brilliam 'Spin'

By Mad Professah

Robert Charles Wilson's Axis (2007) is the sequel to 2005's Spin, (see MadProfessah's review) which was the winner of the 2006 Hugo Award for Best Science Fiction novel, and one of my 2007 Christmakwanzakkuh presents. It has recently been released in paperback.

For some reason it is quite difficult to blog about books soon after one has read them.

I have been meaning to put down my thoughts about this book for quite awhile. Unfortunately, my impressions are not as favorable towards Axis as they were towards Spin.

Necessarily, most of the characters that animated the story in Spin are not present in Axis, but the story does again revolve around the presence of a gigantic physical anomaly which affects the world.

However, in addition to demonstrating how society would react to another cataclysmic event, Wilson has also included a major storyline involving genetic engineering and communication with implacable alien intelligences.

The main problem I had with the book is that the main characters of Lise Adams and Turk Finley are really not compelling enough to sustain a reader's emotional connection, which reduces the overall impact of the novel as a whole despite the brilliance of the central concept.

GRADE: B.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Dianna

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