

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Mission to Minerva*
AUTHOR James P. Hogan
PUBLISHER Baen
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I have been looking forward to this sequel ever since Baen editor (now publisher) Toni Weiskopf talked about it at a con a few years ago. Sadly, after the first hundred pages I came close to putting it back on the shelf, but I stuck it out and was glad I did, as the book finally got on with the “mission” about half way through.

The story picks up right where the last ‘Giants’ book left off, the Thurians are doing well and all is well with the world, that is until Hunt receives a message from himself via a dimensional rift. The rift is not a complete surprise as the Thurians have been working on this with Hunt and his group but only small openings for very short durations have been achieved. The message is way beyond anything they could do yet.

This event starts in motion a trip to Thurian on the *Shaperion* to investigate the phenomenon. After a series of events, the “mission” is finally underway – of course we are talking about a mission back in time, since Minerva is no more in the here and now as readers of the ‘Giants’ series may recall. I won’t give away the purpose of the mission but it is quite interesting and makes for the interesting ending.

Overall I liked the book, but it could have been massively edited to make for a better paced story and certainly a lot less detail in the science explanation would have been welcome. I know that many readers will enjoy the physics lesson but it does drag the book down.

If you enjoyed the ‘Giants’ series then by all means read this book, but if you haven’t, I would advise reading the rest of the series first or this book will be hard to follow.

I give it 3.5 rings of Saturn.