

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Sandworms of Dune*
AUTHOR Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson
PUBLISHER Tor
COVER ART Stephen Youll
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The finale at last! Before Frank Herbert died he outlined the seventh and final installment of the *Dune* series. Several years ago his son Brian found the outline along with extensive notes for the book. He and Kevin had already written some of their books in the *Dune* universe. (All of which I have read and can recommend highly!) After reading the notes they knew they had to write the final installment to bring closure to all of the *Dune* fans around the world.

The novel was so sweeping that when they were done it was over a thousand pages so they broke it into two parts – *Hunters of Dune* and *Sandworms of Dune*. While the first part started a little slow, it built up nicely to this volume which wraps the whole saga up beautifully.

This story has it all; thinking machines, sandworms, Face Dancers, Ixians, Navigators, Bene Gesserit and Honored Matres and gholas of many your favorite characters from the original book. Brian and Kevin weave all these into a climax that caught me totally by surprise and then wrote a brief enough epilogue to close the book on the key characters.

If you have read only the first *Dune* book the beginning of *Hunters* will give you a cursory history lesson of what happened in the other five books, so don't let that stop you from reading these two. I do strongly urge you to read *Hunters of Dune* before you read this one though as they are really one large novel split into two as I indicated.

If you have read all six of the original novels and especially if you have read the two prequel trilogies that these two talented authors have written, you absolutely HAVE to read these two final chapters in one of the greatest sagas of science fiction.

Thank you, Brian and Kevin, for giving us what Frank wanted to but didn't get the chance.

I give it 5 rings of Saturn.