



All These Worlds

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Being a sentient spaceship really should be more fun. But after spreading out through space for almost a century, Bob and his clones just can't stay out of trouble.

They've created enough colonies so humanity shouldn't go extinct. But political squabbles have a bad habit of dying hard, and the Brazilian probes are still trying to take out the competition. And the Bobs have picked a fight with an older, more powerful species with a large appetite and a short temper.

Still stinging from getting their collective butts kicked in their first encounter with the Others, the Bobs now face the prospect of a decisive final battle to defend Earth and its colonies. But the Bobs are less disciplined than a herd of cats, and some of the younger copies are more concerned with their own local problems than defeating the Others.

Yet salvation may come from an unlikely source. A couple of eighth-generation Bobs have found something out in deep space. All it will take to save the Earth and perhaps all of humanity is for them to get it to Sol — unless the Others arrive first.

All These Worlds Details

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From Reader Review All These Worlds for online ebook

TS Chan says

4.5 stars.

All These Worlds was a great and satisfying conclusion to the Bobiverse trilogy, one which I will deem as pretty darn original. It's really not your typical space opera nor near-future cyberpunk science fiction story. Well-written and combining various elements of science, space exploration and humanity, it was a compelling and oft-times humorous package.

Given that this is the final chapter in the many adventures of Bob, I will refrain from mentioning anything about the plot to avoid even the tiniest potential spoiler. I will, however, relate why I wholeheartedly enjoyed this entire trilogy.

Firstly, it satisfied the geek in me. The one who yearned to have the opportunity of space exploration and at the same time realised that the time and distances being contemplated are just simply too vast and incomprehensible for a mortal's lifetime. The technological advances that the Bobs eventually brought to fruition was realistic as well as it didn't feel way too expedient nor convenient. The Bobs also had to contend with resource bottleneck and management when it comes to producing enough vessels, stasis pods for the migrating human colonies, and ordnance for defence.

After a full century since the original Bob woke up to discover that he became a computer programme, what I'd prefer to call nonbiological human intelligence as artificial intelligence just doesn't cut it, the engineer in him had made significant leaps in advancement for the human race to start colonising other planets. However, dealing with an even more advanced power-hungry alien race was another matter altogether.

The writing style was accessible while maintaining some elements of hard science and astrophysics, such as time dilation of space travel and all the other abstract concepts that come with this field. It was the audiobook narration that truly made a difference to my enjoyment. Ray Porter injected personalities into the Bobs, with distinct yet subtle nuances between the many generations of clones from the original Replicant.

The episodic feel of the story gradually begun to fade as the narrative moved towards an event which was suitably climactic. The switching of first-person POVs between the key Bob characters (that's the first time I ever wrote a phrase like that) was executed seamlessly in my opinion.

What I love most about this story was how it dealt with the aspect of what it means to be human. Bob was not an AI learning to have emotions. He was essentially human; simply a nonbiological one with all the capabilities to feel love, happiness, grief, sorrow, regrets.. the whole shebang. Through the various Bobs' engagement and inevitable relationships with "ephemerals", there was quite a lot of emotionally-charged moments as the reality of outliving their loved ones hit hard, as in *really really hard*.

Their lives were now less than a footnote in history. As gone, as utterly forgotten as any random individual from the Middle Ages. No longer even a ripple in time, except to the extent that I could keep their memories alive.

With that, I have to say that I highly recommend this series to fans of science-fiction and space geeks, and especially for audiobook fans of this genre.

This review can also be found at Booknest

Wesley Dryden1 says

The best book I haven't read this year!

Rob says

Executive Summary: A satisfying conclusion to the series, albeit with a somewhat rushed ending.

Audiobook: Another good job by Ray Porter. He has good inflection and volume. He speaks clearly and does a few voices. He's definitely made this an enjoyable listen.

Full Review

I only discovered this series earlier this year thanks to a lot of buzz here on goodreads. It's just the most recent reason that makes me glad this site exists and I finally found it a few years ago.

If you want to win me to your side, the easiest thing to do is have a protagonist who's a 30 something computer programmer into a lot of SFF and video games. This series isn't as heavy on the fan service as say Ready Player One, but there are some nice references dropped throughout as appropriate to make me geek out a bit as I was listening.

I really love all the different Bobs we meet, and I was happy to see he didn't expand the number of POVs too much in this book. Especially given it's rather short length. At just 8 hours in audio, I seemed to be finished with this book in no time at all.

In fact that's my only real complaint here. The ending felt a bit rushed. While many of the subplots were wrapped up pretty nicely, the main plot seemed to go from mostly background noise to overdrive in the last several chapters. I was expecting a bit more of a climax than we actually got.

That isn't to say I was disappointed. This was a fun series, and it's been pretty paced all the way though. While I'm fine with how things leave off at the end, I wouldn't mind if Mr. Taylor decided to revisit the Bobs later on with some kind of sequel, ideally set hundreds (or maybe thousands?) of years after this one wraps up.

Either way I'll have to keep an eye out for Mr. Taylor's next book and hope that it's as much fun as this series has been.

Lindsay says

The Bobs are in trouble. Humanity is in trouble. Even the Pav and the Deltans are in the firing line.

The Others are coming.

“Is there no way we can co-exist? The universe is a large place.”

That also makes no sense. You are food. It is not the purpose of food to co-exist. We will, in time, make our way to your Sol and your Epsilon Eridani. We have seen your radio beacons. Food always thus announces itself.

The Bobs fought a battle at Delta Pavonis and while they bloodied the collective nose of the creatures they're calling the Others, the planet of the Pav species was still destroyed. The Others have already announced their next targets. While the whole Bobiverse has this existential threat hanging over it, the Bobs are facing the ongoing problem of their immortal existence among ephemeral people that they love. Howard, Will and the original Bob all have to face what this means. Meanwhile other Bobs have to decide just how much they want to remain as part of human society.

There are hundreds of Bobs at this point of the story and rather than take the scatter-gun approach of the last two books, the story in this one focuses mainly on the Bobs I mentioned above and the way they have to deal with loss. The rest of the story finishes up what was begun in book two with the evacuation of the Earth and dealing with the Others.

If you've read this far, the conclusion won't disappoint.

Brent says

Excitement, closure, new adventures. A great ending to a great series.

Veronique says

4.5 (review edited)

To say that I am a fan of this series is no secret. Therefore, the fact that I downloaded the audiobook as soon as it was available (yesterday) and consumed it as fast as I could, around real life that is, will shock no one :O)

Taylor offers us the continuing adventures of the Bobs. If you loved the second book, you'll be very happy with this one too, especially since we get some resolutions. Once more, the narration is shared between several iterations of our favourite geek extraordinaire, keeping us in the loop with their 'missions', whether dealing with the ever present threat from The Others, witnessing Archimedes and his people, managing the relocation of the surviving humans, and coping with the shenanigans of the ones already relocated (you know, the power hungry idiots).

Yes, it is more of the same, but it is such a brilliant and compelling 'same'. I just love listening to all the different 'Bobs', their ideas, their pains, their hopes, their loves, and yes their sense of humour. It is also

different. The Bobs, especially the 'older' ones, have changed under the influence of their experiences. Additionally, Taylor does bring the curtain down in a satisfying fashion, while leaving enough scope for another series in the future. Call me happy. Now to resist the temptation to start book 1 again...

Richard Derus says

When the limitations of a single human lifespan are removed from a sentient being's development, what will happen? Will the being go mad, become frozen emotionally, decide to destroy the Universe and see what happens next?

Bob Johansson finds out.

I am jealous of Bob, I am happy Author Taylor decided to write Bob down, and I am all done with the series of novels explaining the Bobiverse. Kinda sorta wish I wasn't but I am, and I think a lot of y'all should pack a Kindle with these three novels and light out for the Bobiverse right quick. The reason is that, in reading the books in order, you'll come to realize that Author Taylor doesn't have a high opinion of the species and still makes a concerted effort to save us. He doesn't consign us to the scrapheap of history with a shrug and a ~meh~.

In this moment of US national history, it's probably more than I'd be able or even willing to do, so it made my days a bit brighter. I'm happy to be jollied along by the greater generosity of a Man with a Plan. And so, I suspect, might other guys be. And I stress the "guys" part—this is a Guy Book in every particular. There are very few female characters and only one is at all developed. Even she is a guy in a woman suit.

She does provide something unique to the Bobiverse...she has a family, kids who grow into beings both like and unlike her. Her relationship with those kids as all the parties age...Bob, in his own way, ages as well...makes for some excellent drama and some astonishing emotional resonances with readers over 50.

I'm also at the point in life where another factor of the Bobiverse, the meditation on personal immortality and the options it provides, is particularly interesting to me. I don't think I'm quite as eager for it at my age as I would have been at Bob's age (31) when he dies. I'm not saying it doesn't have a huge upside. I'm saying that I now feel as well as see the downside, the inevitable losses and griefs piling up under the carpet until the Karastan is basically a blip on the Everest of stuff not dealt with. Author Taylor goes there, as well, and I suspect it's a subject of newfound interest to the intended audience for the book.

The idea of family comes in for some particularly inventive workouts in the Bobiverse. One of the intriguing things about immortality, particularly in Bob's form of multiple "clones" of his conscious mind branching from the moments of separation, is the expanded family sense it offers. Each new generation of Bob-clones is one more removed from Original Biological Bob, then Replicant Bob, then the cloned Bob-minds that cloned Bob-minds that now clone Bob-minds...yet all have perfect digital recall of the "ancestral" Bobs to the moment of their awareness as individuals begins.

Mind-blowing, isn't it? Think on it: generations of sibling-selves with your character! Every facet would be fully explored, of course, like all siblings each unique individual would seek to become different, to distinguish itself from all the others around it. In effect, though the clones would start with certain memories as a base of contact with all the other sibling consciousnesses, as the generations of cloning take place the

point of commonality would be deeper and deeper under the sense of personal uniqueness.

It would be fascinating to see this play out! I wanna be in the Bobiverse, dammit!

Except, of course, for the Bobiversal solution to the Fermi Paradox ("where is everybody?"), the Others. A better monster-movie villain I ain't never read. Scary. Don't deny yourself the simultaneous pleasure and fear of experiencing the Bobiverse! Like, now!

Book Roast says

Thoroughly enjoyed this trilogy. I loved the first book the most, it was intriguing as heck! I love this author's writing style so much. I do think I have dozed off and missed some bits in my audiobook of the 2nd one so I was a bit lost in this one, but that's entirely my fault, and yet somehow I still enjoyed it. Definitely something I might re-read in a physical format to make sure I follow everything, I don't mind going through it again. But the TBR size is dire so who knows if that will happen.

A superb sci-fi!

Char says

I don't even know what to say about this, the final entry in the Bobiverse series.

I guess I'll say it's funny, suspenseful, interesting and sad all at once. Some of the Bobs, (the original and all of the clones in their various incarnations), are getting tired, (I know, clones? Tired? But it's true), and who could blame them? Their entire reason for existing is saving and protecting humanity, even those that don't think they need protection or saving. Every human that the Bobs know is dying. When they do die, the Bobs will continue on. Forever. Imagine how that must feel. Even as clones, the Bobs all have distinct personalities and they still have feelings. (I know, feelings in clones? But in the Bobiverse it makes sense, trust me.)

Regarding their main goals-will they save humanity from the "Others" (a species similar to that of Species 8472 from Star Trek: Voyager), will they save it from the mad Brazilian's clones? Will they be able to finally evacuate all of earth before it can no longer support human life? You'll have to read or listen to find out!

I say goodbye to the Bobs and to Ray Porter's voicing of him with tears in my eyes. Thank you Dennis E. Taylor and Ray Porter for bringing Bob to life. I really enjoyed getting to know him.

My highest recommendation for this entire series, available on Audible only.

I bought all of these audio books with my hard earned cash and this opinion is honest.

Nathaniel says

In All These Worlds, Dennis E. Taylor abruptly tied up all the many enticing loose strings from the series so

far, and it felt rushed, almost as though he had skipped to the last chapter and just written that instead of giving his readers all of the intervening content that they expected. Or, at any rate, that I expected.

The thing is, he had *a lot* going on based on the first two books. Major sci-fi themes that are usually centerpieces for entire trilogies each served as minor subplots in Taylor's work. Species-annihilating bad-guy alien race hell-bent on eliminating Earth? Check. Post-apocalyptic race for time to save the human race from ecological fallout of their own self-destructive wars--not to mention suicidal politics and terrorism? Check. Shaggy-God plotline where human shepherds primitive but intelligent alien race through potentially catastrophic evolutionary bottleneck with all the accompanying philosophical conundrums? Check. Fledgling young colony fights to throw off the totalitarian oppressors to fully realize the freedom of their new world? Check. And this is just *a sampling* of the plots that Taylor was juggling all at once. The series was a smorgasbord of sci-fi delights.

And then, in a mere 8 hours, it was all over. This was *not* enough time to give these plotlines their just deserts. Not even close.

A couple of corollary observations. First, the book really was short. The first book in this series, *We Are Legion* (*We Are Bob*), was 9.5 hours long. The second book, *For We Are Many*, was 9 hours long. Those are short books, but within typical length for military sf. (This isn't exactly military sf, but close to.) All *These Worlds* clocked in at 8 hours. Any shorter than that, and we start to feel like we're in novella territory instead of novel territory. (Times are based on audiobook run-time.)

Second, there was a foreword from the author before the book started that--especially in retrospect--seemed really ominous. In it, Taylor thanked his wife for allowing him to go full-time as a writer. Why is this ominous? Because the Bobiverse felt like a first-novel project. It had all the hallmarks, including (initially) a very simple narrative structure, characters who were obviously at least partially autobiographical, and a heavy, heavy reliance on well-worn genre tropes. It fit nicely alongside works like *Monster Hunter International* or *Wool*: all admirable first-efforts from (at the time) working stiff who (later) went on to go full-time and try their hands at more ambitious works. This is kind of the natural way of things, but with the prevalence of self-publishing the cycle has sped up considerably.

I think of someone like Jim Butcher and *Storm Front*. The book had a lot of the same hallmarks of a first-effort, but it was trad-published (back in 2000) and--probably because of that--Jim Butcher kept writing in that setting. He's *still* writing the Dresden Files, which are now up to over a dozen books. That's how things worked in trad-publishing of yesteryear. It was harder to get your first book out there, and the publisher had more say in making sure that--once you did get it out there--you kept pumping out work in that series until it was done.

But when it's easier to get a book out there and when the publisher has less influence, the temptation for authors to walk away from their first projects and start something new is much higher. After all, many authors--when they are working on their first novel--intentionally pick something *other* than their true passion to work on. They pick something that might be a little more disposable and/or that they think will be easier to execute and/or that they think will be more marketable. And--as soon as they get a chance--they abandon it for what they *really* wanted to write. (Or, perhaps, just for the new, shiny idea.)

This is bad.

It's bad for two reasons. First, because if you become a fan of an author for Series X, then you're invested in that series, and you'd like the author to complete it. I'm *not* saying that an audience has a right to dictate what

an author writes. I am saying that an audience who comes in for Series X has a vested interest in seeing Series X through, and is much less likely to be enthusiastic about Series Y.

It's also bad because, perversely, artists seem to get much, much *worse* when they lose constraints. One great example of this is George Lucas. The less money, time, and power he has, the better his movies are. The more money, time, and power he has, the worse they get.

I think some of this is just the way creativity works. Creativity is always most vibrant when it is a response to constraints. Obviously you don't want to be *too* constrained, or you can't have creativity at all. But it seems like the comfort zone for creators is often so unconstrained that creativity sort of languishes. And some of it is because those constraints that are actually *good* for art. Take marketability, for example, which is shorthand for "what a lot of people want to read." This is not an irrelevant consideration. When an author is thinking about not only what they want to write, but also what their audience wants to read, that's not a bad thing. Sure, it can go too far and become fan-service, which is its own kind of gross. But, once again, if left to their own devices entirely artists can far too quickly detach from their audience entirely and spiral off into their own echo chamber of weird irrelevance.

This might seem like a lot of analysis to pull from an off-handed comment in a forward / acknowledgment to his wife, but I'm telling you the truth when I say: I was alarmed when I heard that because my immediate thought was, "Surely he can't think that he can just tie up this entire series with a bow and wander off to do something new, can he?"

Well, yes, apparently, he could. Because that's just what he did.

So--while I really liked the book--I also feel robbed. There should have been at least 2-3 more novels in this series, and quite potentially more. I get that Taylor apparently didn't want to write them, and that he gets to make that call. He's the God of his universe. That's how it works.

But, as someone just visiting, I'm really disappointed that he dropped the final curtain in the middle of Act II.

I will probably give Taylor's next project a shot. And--if it's really, really amazing--I will even come back and edit this review to apologize and say that he did the right thing.

But I would also happily take a bet that his next series will be *worse* than this one. I mean, have you guys (who are fans of the Dresden Files) read Jim Butcher's Codex Alera? I read it out of pity because he kept plugging it again and again in the Dresden Files, always talking about how "horse and sword fantasy" (I think that's how he put it) was his first love. I read the entire series, and it just wasn't really any good. On the other hand, The Aeronaut's Windlass was *fantastic*. By that time, Butcher was an amazing, accomplished writer. So my suspicion is that fledgling authors who find they've written a hit should really, *really* stick with that hit until it actually reaches an organic conclusion, and not bail out prematurely. Chances are they don't have the chops to pull off their more ambitious scheme as well as it deserves, that they will find the sudden decrease in external constraints corrosive more than enabling, and that just as afterthought they're going to alienate (at least a little bit) the core audience that has just started to get to know them.

Just my \$0.02, anyway.

Bradley says

Homo Sideria

I love it. Actually, I love this entire series.

So much happens, but it's mostly snippets and sub-plots for multiple personalities spread across vast distances across space. Of course, that's kinda necessary since it's one man in an AI matrix duplicating himself massively and communicating real-time over fantastic spaces, doing good as he mines and fabricates and fights battles with aliens, insane AIs from old Earth, talks with friends or adopted relatives or just goes the terraforming route or just about anything else he wants to do.

He's pretty much a machine god in our future, but he's also just Bob. Geek from our century. Doesn't really want anything for himself but is perfectly willing to do so much good for so many people, it's really rather sad how much people take advantage of him.

In this third book, however, we come to a head with the alien ships that chew up and spit out whole worlds, and it's everything I'd hoped it would be. :) All the sub-plots include romance, exploration, guilt, and just plain getting pissed off, but what else can we expect? I feel for him. :)

Great trilogy. Possibly some of the most refreshing stuff I've read in ages. :)

J.L. Sutton says

Can the unabashed geekiness of the first two Bobiverse books continue and deliver on their protagonists' mission to find new habitable worlds for humanity in the final book of the trilogy? Yes! I enjoyed Dennis Taylor's *All These Worlds* and felt it reached a satisfying conclusion (although if there was a Bobiverse #4, I wouldn't complain). For me, it took a little while to get going, but it hit its stride when it returned to issues of what it means to be human and whether that could change the way we interact with each other in the future. From there, it sped on to the Bobs completing their mission and their withdrawal (into the sunsets).

Scott says

I *love* the Bobiverse.

Dennis Taylor has created a fun, entertaining and sometimes thoughtful series, and I'm genuinely sad to see it end.

In saying that, I don't feel that *All These Worlds* is a worthy finale for the Bobiverse trilogy. While this is still an enjoyable book it just isn't the big finisher that the Bobiverse needs or deserves.

The format of the two previous books continues here- a series of first person almost diary-like vignettes from the various Bob's that are spread throughout the galaxy, exploring, inventing, helping sentient species and shepherding the remainder of humanity after war has devastated Earth.

The threat of the others is still hanging over humanity and as the Bob's severely pissed their enemies off in the last book, the danger this time around is directed straight at our (many) heroes and their human charges.

Conflict and danger abounds, but... It all feels a bit cursory. Perhaps due to the first two books being so full of ideas, so jam packed full of plots that need resolution- The Others, original Bob's sentient humanoids, a potential Bob-human romance, Bill's exploration of new tech, Riker's need to evacuate Earth's remaining millions before the hostile climate kills everyone, the crazy Brazilian probes that pop up to derail Bobkind's plans – one (short) book just doesn't feel like it offers enough room to tie all the loose ends off.

As a result the big threat – The Others - is knocked off too easily, in a manner that you would expect a menacing alien super-civilisation to have thought of and perhaps planned for. It just felt too convenient, and a big space battle that the Bob's have with the Others lacks the excitement of their earlier engagement around the Pav homeworld in *For We are Many*.

Original Bob's relationship with Archimedes is carried through to a conclusion that is more satisfying, and a romance angle works out pretty well, but my overall impression is one of a series being wrapped up too quickly for my tastes.

That's not to say this is a bad book – it isn't – but it also isn't what it could have been and it leaves what is a great series a little undercooked.

Bram says

I can really appreciate the fact that the parts of this trilogy are being released so close to each other. Not even a year went by between the release of *We Are Legion (We Are Bob)* and *All these Worlds*. As a reader, I applaud this. I know it's not something every author can pull off, but respect to Dennis Taylor for this.

Also, the audiobook rendition is truly worth its money. Ray Porter really gives each Bob their own character and eventually I was able to recognize which specific POV I was listening too, based on the voice he used. Really good stuff.

World-building

The world / universe building takes a bit of a back-seat in this one. The "known" universe doesn't really expand anymore, in stead we focus more on the planets that have been previously discovered / terraformed and how they develop. There's still some very interesting stuff there, regarding the evolution of fauna and the Deltans, but it doesn't take up so much page-time anymore. The focus is definitely on the development of the plot.

Characters

What's there to say? There's still a bunch of Bobs, they keep diversifying in interesting ways and there's even a little romance in there. All of it felt real and I felt completely immersed in their ~~worlds~~ VR's.

Writing

Dennis Taylors writing is still very fun to read. It's fluid, witty and full of pop / geek / nerd - culture

references, which my inner geek LOVES. There's a dry kind of humor that perpetuates through all 3 of the books and that resonates with me on a personal level.

Plot / Story

The story switches POV's constantly, but doesn't feel all that complicated. The transitions are seamless, even when jumping through time. All story threads get wrapped up nicely and we get a big finish at the end, befitting the epicness of the universe. Great story, with all the ingredients required to propel this series into the science fiction hall of fame.

Conclusion

Throughout this series, I've constantly been able to effortlessly put myself in the shoes of whichever Bob was doing the talking. The thought process and the decision making feel so close to me, that it feels like this story was written, just for me. I've loved every minute of this epic saga and I'm sure I'll be re-reading this again. In the meantime, I can say that this was an absolutely bloody brilliant ending, to an epic saga and I'm going to recommend the shit out of it, to everyone that dares admit they like science fiction.

A million stars.

Trish says

So ... I guess this is it. Time to say goodbye. *sniffles* Though the author has promised he isn't done with the Bobiverse, the We-Are-Bob-cycle has come to an end with this third volume.

Again, we have different replicants of the original Bob in different corners of the universe (but by now, they all have or can have bodies thanks to ever improving designs for android bodies). Again, they are either on a discovery trip, trying to save what's left of humanity, or watching alien species on their respective planets. This is a nice continuation of the story arcs opened up in the previous two volumes with a few more or less unexpected twists (some thrilling, some sad, some funny).

What I like is that this trilogy is an exploration of what would happen if time/distance wasn't an issue and you'd have a whole universe to play in/with. Nevertheless, as broad as the scope can be, there are also story elements that focus on the smaller (read: not less important) settings/themes. Some might say there is little to no action, but I disagree because it depends on how you define "action". To me, it was very thrilling to go with the original Bob and watch an alien civilisation live their lives; or to explore another planet's marine wildlife (I'm so on board getting into all kinds of android bodies like that of a dolphin-equivalent in order to be able to study those oceans on Poseidon or whatever other environment on any planet); or to save humanity. Not to mention that we did get two pretty cool space battles!

I was surprised that almost nobody was tempted by the offer to become a replicant. That was seriously weird considering how humans love the idea of living forever (I count myself amongst those people). Not to mention the freedom and sheer endless possibilities in the universe.

Some characters infuriated me ((view spoiler) spring to mind immediately, but also (view spoiler)). Lucky for everyone involved (and reading), all Bobs do feel at least a certain amount of responsibility so it's all hands on deck.

The book was, as the previous two of this trilogy, full of geeky goodness and I loved it. Sure, some Bobs have become darker after certain events in the previous two volumes, but they will always be awesome as a person. And they all stay true to themselves which also explains the truly perfect ending (we come full circle and yet there is no actual limit/ending).

And for anyone wondering: the narrator was brilliant (again) when voicing each replicant in a unique way (he also does a pretty good Aussie accent) so I recommend the audio.
