



The Carpet Makers

ANDREAS ESCHBACH

With an introduction by ORSON SCOTT CARD

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Andreas Eschbach, Doryl Jensen (Translator), Orson Scott Card (Introduction)

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The Carpet Makers Andreas Eschbach , Doryl Jensen (Translator) , Orson Scott Card (Introduction)
Since the time of pre-history, carpetmakers tie intricate knots to form carpets for the court of the Emperor. These carpets are made from the hairs of wives and daughters; they are so detailed and fragile that each carpetmaker finishes only one single carpet in his entire lifetime.

This art descends from father to son, since the beginning of time itself.

But one day the empire of the God Emperor vanishes, and strangers begin to arrive from the stars to follow the trace of the hair carpets. What these strangers discover is beyond all belief, more than anything they could have ever imagined...

Brought to the attention of Tor Books by Orson Scott Card, this edition of *The Carpet Makers* contains a special introduction by Orson Scott Card.

The Carpet Makers Details

Date : Published February 21st 2006 by Tor Books (first published May 5th 1995)

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Author : Andreas Eschbach , Doryl Jensen (Translator) , Orson Scott Card (Introduction)

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From Reader Review The Carpet Makers for online ebook

Lisa Vegan says

[unthinking devotion vs. thinking for oneself (hide spoiler)]

Jokoloyo says

[What I see, the concept is the great conflict between the very very long-held idea in people's mind and way of life infused by the empire versus the new freedom idea. In real-life maybe we already familiar with the concept, reminds us of how new ideas struggle with older customs in many par

Uve says

4.5 Gran historia de la que pronto subiré una reseña más amplia. Hacia la parte final algunos elementos del tapiz no están entrelazados de la misma forma que en su inicio, y por ello no le he dado las cinco estrellas. Un libro que merece ser leído por todo amante del género.

Reseña disponible en --> <https://miradasenlatadas.blogspot.com...>

Penny says

Overall I definitely enjoyed this book although there were some aspects of it that I didn't like so much. The chapters jump around a bit, there wasn't much in the way of female characters who weren't defined by sex, and the reveal at the end came in a package I didn't find all that believable.

That said, the story that gets revealed was completely unexpected and goes to show what ultimate power can do. It isn't a pretty sight. I can't discuss the best aspect of the story without giving away the ending, so although I don't claim that this is the best book ever, it certainly is worth the read to find out what's behind the mystery. It gives a lot of food for thought.

Phoenixfalls says

This is the sort of science fiction that's perfect to hand to someone who says they never read science fiction -- sure, it's set in the future, and there are space ships, and we visit a couple of different planets in a vast interstellar empire, but that's ultimately just a slightly-more-exotic-than-usual setting for a story about some very human people whose lives touch because they each in some way illuminate the central mystery.

Each chapter is told from a different character's perspective, and within the 10-15 pages devoted to that character Eschbach is able to give the reader a strong sense of who that character is and what his/her life is

like -- and most of those lives are hard, and filled with tragedies large and small. Whether it is Eschbach's doing or the translator's, the prose is imbued with a sense of distance that makes those tragedies bearable -- and were it not for that sense of distance I would have had to put the book down several times to cry. But the book isn't about those tragedies; each one is presented not for pathos but because it gives the reader (and soon, some of the characters) clues about the purpose behind the hair carpets.

As we delve deeper into the mystery the plotting becomes more complex and the scope widens -- we begin to sense the vast sweeps of history and the passions behind them. The book does lose a little of its focus in a couple chapters -- three of the perspectives ended up almost totally extraneous to the final resolution. But the resolution itself is horrifying, and all the more potent because of the dryness of the narration. This is a book that lingers long past the final page, and one which feels far richer than 300 pages has a right to be. I am immensely glad that it was translated into English.

Leemaslibros says

Qué historia tan memorable. Salvo el estilo (normal pero nada destacable) todo es soberbio.

Javir11 says

Los tejedores de cabellos es una de esas historias donde lo importante es la trama y el mensaje que el autor nos quiere inculcar con ella.

Engancha bastante, sobre todo a partir de mitad del libro solo pensaba en descubrir el secreto que había detrás de las alfombras de cabellos.

La forma en que esta narrada es original. No hay un personaje protagonista como tal y en cada uno de los 17 capítulos disfrutaremos del punto de vista de 17 personajes distintos.

Con esto conseguimos una mayor amplitud de miras a la hora de descubrir el universo que Andreas Eschbach quiere mostrarnos. Pero también sufrimos de unos altibajos en la narración que no siempre son agradables.

El final es el adecuado, aunque para mi gusto, la forma de narrarlo o más bien de llegar a él, quizás podría ser otra.

En definitiva, un buen libro de ciencia ficción que se lee en tres ratos y que seguro que si se le da una oportunidad terminará gustando hasta al más pintado.

Como en todas mis reseñas os dejo un enlace a mi blog por si queréis leer mi opinión de una forma algo más detallada.

<http://fantasiascifiymuchomas.blogspot.com>...

Rubén Vilaplana says

Todo gira entorno al noble arte de hacer alfombras con cabello humano. ¿? y mucho más, y más, y más....

Increíble novela, no hay palabras para describir todas las sensaciones que he experimentado leyendo, pero cuidado si no dosificas se puede leer de un tirón. Sin duda para mí en el top ten de las mejores. Si eres amante de la cf no te la puedes perder.

Jerry Jose says

This book made me recall *Ursula K Le Guin*'s introduction to *The Left Hand of Darkness*, where she explains science fiction as descriptive, rather than predictive or prescribing. Novelists invent circumstantial lies and metaphors for describing certain aspects of our psychological reality. To me, *Andreas Eschbach*'s writing did just that; the alternative universe in *The Carpet Makers* was a reflection of the world we think to have left behind, yet latently existing within ourselves.

The novel opens with an archaic tale, reminiscent of *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*, in premise and narrative. Our introduction to the Intergalactic Empire is through Yannahochia, a planet of Carpet makers where the caste system is more rigid than that in *Manusmriti*. This planet, G-101/2 in the Gheera galaxy, comprises of traditional carpet weavers who consider it their sacred duty to create carpets using nothing but hairs of their wives and daughters. Though the initial mystery of carpet business had me hooked, I was more lured to see how this medieval fable would fit into the genre of sci fi. And it got paid off well.

Each chapter in this novel can be considered as a standalone story, and maintains subtle continuity with others. *Eschbach*'s simplistic prose wasn't much lost in translation, I believe; the reproduction might have even enhanced novel's adapted fable structure. The general narrative, through changing perspectives, gave due diligence the emotions attached with the very customs it seemed to ridicule. There were stories that professed free, and then there were stories that suggested them being illusions. There were stories about adherence to one's duty in the society and then there were stories that warranted the need to break away. And then there was this outsider perspective - how everything looked futile when viewed from outside the community. Again, as an antithesis, there were stories that dealt with loss of one's identity and faith, which made rebels' civilizing mission look like *Hegemony* attack on Maui-Covenant.

I found the Carpet Makers and their defining Empire similar to *Iain M Bank*'s treatment of *Azadians* with utopian *Culture*. Even though the Emperor ruled over with overseers and levied taxes, his 'meth' like chronic existence placed a perpetual halo over, more like that of Semitic conception of God than that of an Oriental emperor. Also, unlike the *Katy Perry* loving *Kim Jong Un*, Carpet Makers' Emperor was serious business, who had actually stopped aging for ages. Imperial workers, Carpet Makers in particular, represented a closed society based on 'faith'. The caste system and sense of duty was so deeply riveted in empire's social consensus that people took pride in being jittery marionettes of a defective system. Every character, regardless of caste, was shown to possess intrinsic insecurities that called for constant revaluations. This tussle between self-reliance and 'dharma', and auxiliary temptation to reason failures to its non-adherence, to the over analyst in me, felt like a critique to organized religion, conservatism and postcolonial psychology of 20th century.

I expected the stories to concatenate towards a science-y closure, like various hair strands forming a single

carpet. But I was left with the same expression *Old Boy*'s final chapters had left me in: an existential deadness, the kind that seemed to have engulfed Ostvan and Guild on learning the truth. Then it hit me, and it was beautiful.

Shane Curran says

The Carpet Makers is a well thought out, expansive sci-fi story that despite it's scope manages to deliver a simple morality tale about human nature during times of change.

It took me a few chapters to get used to the author's style. Each chapter seemed to start a new narrative, following a different group of characters, with few repeat appearances from previous characters or story-lines. The book could almost be read as a collection of short stories. A few chapters in I started to see the relationship between the (seemingly) disconnected narratives, and began to enjoy putting together the puzzle pieces, and unraveling the mystery.

Sci-fi fans who can appreciate a challenging mystery involving alien-worlds, an oppressive empire & brave rebellion, and a morality tale that touches the heart of human nature will definitely enjoy this book.

S. Barker says

A veces me pregunto si tiene sentido añadir mi reseña a las de miles de otros. No sé hasta qué punto mis palabras animan o desaniman a nadie. A veces me queda la sensación de que no hay nada más que decir.

Esta historia hoy en día habría sido una trilogía, o peor aún, una novela río. Se habría alargado páginas y páginas, pero el mensaje habría sido el mismo, y el impacto de la historia en el lector mucho menor.

Hay quien afirma que George R. R. Martin maneja con soltura y gracia lo de escribir historias desde varios puntos de vista... Después de este libro, yo digo que es un principiante.

¿Queda claro ya que me ha gustado? Pues por si acaso, alto y claro: Me ha gustado. Y mucho.

Pablo Bueno says

Todos los amantes de la ciencia ficción saben que, con frecuencia, algunas de las joyas que esconde el género no tratan sobre aventuras, sobre guerras espaciales o sobre la resistencia ante la invasión extraterrestre. A menudo, los escenarios futuristas o las posibilidades científicas son un pretexto para tratar los grandes temas; los mismos que toca a veces la literatura realista o, sin irnos muy lejos, las conversaciones entre buenos amigos en torno a un café: el amor, la desigualdad, el miedo, el odio, la trascendencia, la divinidad, las relaciones humanas... Pero, si existen esos grandes temas de la literatura, el que se trata en esta novela se lleva aquí a un grado superlativo que yo, personalmente, no había visto jamás.

Los tejedores de cabellos se marcha, con cinco estrellas, a mi carpeta de favoritos y, dentro de poco, ¡reseña en Sense of Wonder!

Nikki says

This book has to get five stars from me because it's the first book in quite a while that I would've stayed up late into the night to finish, even if I was exhausted. From the first chapter, it weaves a compelling mystery and builds a whole new world. The writing itself is beautiful; the translation is excellent, with no sense of a gap between me and the text, which I often do get with translations. I think I'm going to have to parcel it up and send it on a round of my friends to read.

I'm not actually saying it's flawless. The structure, however, keeps it strong: each chapter is a self-contained story, which adds a link in the chain to eventually get to the heart of the mystery. But once I got there, after all that build-up, it felt unsatisfying -- but that didn't take away from the power and mystery of the rest of the book. And the epilogue was another strong link in the chain, a perfect way to finish the story.

Usually, I'm interested in characters, in any given book. That's not the case here, and I didn't even feel a lack because of it. It's a totally bewildering, bewitching book..

Carlex says

Lo que comenta todo el mundo: una obra maestra. Sin querer menospreciar otros subgéneros, estamos hablando de ciencia ficción con mayúsculas. En esta novela salen naves espaciales, e incluso alguna pistola de rayos, pero nada que ver con la idea tan arraigada que arrastra la ciencia ficción, esto es, space opera de mala calidad.

En mi opinión se trata de una ciencia ficción orientada al ser humano. Los cambios tecnológicos y del contexto futuro (la posibilidad de un imperio galáctico, etc.) son una excusa para imaginar sociedades distintas a la nuestra. Sociedades con sus tiranos, tradiciones, prejuicios, dominación y explotación. Es decir, sociedades ante todo humanas: en unos aspectos muy distintas pero en otros similares. Es lo que llamamos naturaleza... humana.

Las historias contadas no son las vicisitudes del héroe al uso. De hecho, no hay protagonistas. Se trata de gente corriente en una sociedad estelar que ocupa toda una galaxia, muy distante de nosotros en el tiempo y el espacio.

Sentido de la maravilla del ser humano.

Belcebón says

No necesité más que echar un vistazo a la sinopsis para lanzarme de cabeza. Ciencia ficción *viejuna* y una historia que engancha más que los nudos de los tejedores de alfombras. Está contada en capítulos donde el protagonista siempre es distinto, aunque habrá personajes que enlacen las historias entre sí. En la primera parte sobre todo, tienes la impresión de estar leyendo las historias de Sherezade. Además el final es muy redondo y se lee en un momento. ¿Qué más se puede pedir?

P.D: Gracias a Sara por recomendármelo y a Cris por secundarlo xD

Sarah says

The Carpet Makers is constructed like a carpet, weaving narratives together to tell a story that is at once immense in scope and driven by attention to the tiniest detail. Each chapter is a short story focusing on a different character. No perspective is repeated, but themes and characters recur, as seen through the eyes of others. Often we encounter a character several chapters before his or her significance becomes apparent. The end result is a book that is satisfying as a whole, with several stories that stand out on their own. I would have liked to see what happened to some of the characters left behind as the focus expanded, but I'm not sure I would have been satisfied with the answer, so maybe it's best left to my imagination.

Kim says

At first this seems like a simple, but unusual, story of a planet whose whole purpose is the creation of carpets made of hair to sell for their Emperor-God. The carpets are made from the hair of the carpet makers wives and daughters and will take their entire life to create just one. As the story unfolds you gradually learn all is not as it seems and something quite sinister is happening.

This was a mesmerising tale which kept me glued to the pages so much I read the whole book in a couple hours. I just had to know what the truth was and I have to say I didn't see it coming. The twist was pulled off superbly.

There were some negatives though. The way the book was told was very disjointed and often jarring and disorientating from one chapter to the next. You'd never know how much time, if any, had passed until later on. I also felt there were a few plot lines that were never resolved. They just disappeared.

Overall though this was a great book. I highly recommend it.

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Bandinnelli Bandinnelli says

Una historia apasionante, pero no puedo decir lo mejor porque es spoiler.

Muy recomendable, y no le pongo 5 estrellas porque el último cuarto me chirría un poco (eso sí, el final como tal, no)

Ryandake says

even better the second (or possibly the third) time around.

the novel is a series of interlinked short stories, more or less. this time around reading it i had the feeling it was a tapestry, altho possibly not made of women's hair.

that's what the carpet makers make: carpets out of women's hair. their wives' and subwives' hair. fear not, no women are harmed in the making of this carpet. well, not just for their hair, anyway.

the carpet makers work their art as honored members of their society. a carpet maker makes only one carpet in his (yes, always his) entire life. its selling price pays for his son's lifework: making another hair carpet. generation after generation, making hair carpets, and where do they all go?

to the Emperor, who reportedly adorns his palace with them.

but all is not quite as the carpet makers have been led to believe, and the truth about where the carpets go and why is unbelievably appalling.

but no spoilers here!

eschbach is a *genius*. this novel begins with the story of one otherwise utterly ignorant carpet maker, and in succeeding stories, tells you the history of an intergalactic empire that spans 250,000 years. eschbach tells you this history in a mere 18 chapters. the genius of it is that each chapter is just one more story of a very human individual--he weaves the history so tightly into the individual's story that the reader never feels she is being info-dumped or given a lesson at all. we are simply reading one person's story, and then another, and another, and each is a perfectly formed and perfectly distinct gem.

as a writer, i stand in awe (the real kind) of what he has accomplished here. as a reader, i am alternately deeply moved, or amused, or horrified, or fall into the deepest of sighs that says, *yes, that's how life is* (even when it's not pretty, but also when it is).

i cannot recommend this book highly enough. i read at least 100 books a year, and in 45 years of reading like a mad librarian, i can count on my limited digits the number that i find to be of this caliber. this book is a serious literary and storytelling accomplishment, and i hope that this review convinces you to give it a try.

perhaps we can then all get together and convince Tor to have more of Eschbach's works translated. to date this is the only one i know of in English. we are impoverished by this lack... Tor, are you listening?
