



Nemesis: An unputdownable thriller full of suspense

Bill Napier

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‘The most exciting book I have ever read’ Arthur C. Clarke

A shocking CIA report confirms Russia has deflected an asteroid on to a collision course with the United States. An elite team of the world’s top astronomers have five days to identify the asteroid – codename Nemesis – and stop it.

If they fail, the President will retaliate with a massive nuclear strike.

But with time running out, British asteroid expert **Oliver Webb** discovers that its course was once predicted in an obscure seventeenth-century manuscript, the only copy of which has gone mysteriously missing...

***Nemesis* is an ingenious and utterly gripping thriller, perfect for fans of Dan Brown, Scott Mariani and Andy McDermott.**

Praise for Bill Napier

‘Outrageously exciting’ *Literary Review*

‘A nail-biting page-turner’ *Edinburgh Times*

‘Pacy and sharp’ *FHM*

‘Excellent’ *New Scientist*

Professor Bill Napier is a Scottish astronomer at the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland and an honorary professor at the Institute for Astrobiology of Cardiff University.

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From Reader Review Nemesis: An unputdownable thriller full of suspense for online ebook

Jerry Mount says

I really had mixed feelings about this book. I was well into it before I realized that it was first published in 1998, and apparently was placed in some alternative future to that time. I was hoping for a more scientifically plausible version of the movies Armageddon and Deep Impact. Nemesis turned out to be more of a James Bond thriller. Other readers have talked about the dense astronomical descriptions, taken from the author's career. I felt OK with most of it, but there was too much scientific shorthand. I wanted either more explicit mathematical discussions and spelling out of many acronyms, or else just use basic stuff for the non-scientific reader.

The conspiracy aspects and the Dan Brown style of solving ancient riddles was just too much for me. It looked like a tangled web of various plot lines and devices was used to conceal a basic flaw in the premise. That flaw was in the obvious questions of how did anybody supposedly know that an asteroid was really approaching earth, and that it was caused by the Russians? Every character in the book should have been demanding answers to these questions by page 30 or earlier. I'm pretty sure most readers were. The experts in the book do a very good job of showing how difficult it is to find and track asteroids, let alone destroy or deflect them. But nobody questions the ability of the Russians to very precisely (without detection!) deflect an asteroid to an earth collision using nuclear weapons! Please.

The action scenes were well done. The characters were OK. The pacing and story structure didn't work well. The book seemed almost out of sequence in some areas. I had to re-read parts to make sure I hadn't missed something. The conspiracy aspects were way overdone. The conspirators supposedly utilize a foreign outsider, just to get him to follow a 400 year-old fake story to get him to "find" an asteroid that really doesn't exist??? C'mon, man. And a small group being able to falsify most of the US military and intelligence info to show fake Russian war actions? B-movie stuff.

I think that this author has talent. His details, action descriptions, and characters are pretty good. I think he should simplify the storylines, and look more at the plausibility of the key plot points.

Ena Mann says

Out of this world!

Although I did not understand a lot of the scientific stuff in this story I still found it to be absorbing and I was unable to put it down. The characters were well described and interesting. The events were exciting. I will read more by this author

Roy moulder says

Greattttt

Loved it, loved it, loved it. Enough said. I believe you will also enjoy this book as much as I have.

Brian Kitchen says

it wasn't until I was a good way into this novel before I found out it was published in 1998. This explained why out of date technology was being used and defunct air travel services such as Concorde. I am not an astronomer and so found the equations and jargon very baffling and at times the plot seemed rather disjointed. Having said all that it wasn't a bad thriller, but I have read far, far better ones and was almost minded to give it three stars rather than four.

John says

Quixotic but richly embroidered with gigantic science and great dialogue

Immense panorama. Unlimited characters to drive you into senseless plot acceptance. Unrealistic odessy but hell of a good read. Get it

MaryAnn says

So much potential

I give this book 3.5 stars. I thoroughly enjoyed the premise of the book and what it was about in general. On it's subject matter and the conspiracy that occurred, I would give it 4.5 stars and that's what kept me reading with interest until the end. My problem was that I really struggled with being able to follow exactly what was happening, where it was happening and what timeline was, and struggled with following the characters' introductions and involvement. The writing was jumpy switching too quickly between people, scenes, and time periods. A little more description or background would have been very helpful; even if with section titles stating the location of upcoming scene and the time frame. There was a small amount of that done, but not nearly enough. The excessive scientific/mathematical discussions and equations between all the scientists were hard to get through for someone who is not familiar. I am very confused by the beginning when there occurs some kind of catastrophic event and then the book never gets back to that whatsoever and it really should have.

Richard Howiler says

Exciting but technical

I'm a relatively smart person but from the beginning I got bogged down with all the technical lingo. It did keep me in suspense as the title says and it builds as the story progresses. The Bible says that in the end times there will be an asteroid that will hit the earth and the level of destruction described in this book is something

I never hope to see. I gave it four stars because of all the technical stuff.

Robert Gelms says

Look! Up In The Sky, It's a Bird, It's a Plane.

By Bob Gelms

This book review is not about Arthur C. Clarke, but I need to write about him for a bit because his giant shadow falls ever so lightly on Nemesis by Bill Napier.

Mr. Clarke has tens of millions of admirers all around the world and nearly all of them, as far as I can tell; think he is the greatest science fiction writer to have ever lived. I, in the spirit of full disclosure, am one of them. His opinion on anything carries the weight of the universe.

Clarke has said that Nemesis is “The most exciting book I have ever read.” If it’s good for Arthur C. Clarke then it’s good for me. His opinion put to rest a few difficulties I had with the plot. If I have to suspend my disbelief past a line I’m comfortable with because Arthur C. Clarke seems to think there isn’t any scientific problems inherent in the plot then that is exactly what I’m going to do.

The CIA has notified the Joint Chiefs and the President that they have uncovered an action by the Russian Government to destroy the USA. Well, Russia is always trying to destroy the USA but, this time it’s way different and the Russians have succeeded in putting their plan in motion.

A team of Cosmonauts was sent on a secret mission to rendezvous with an asteroid that has been crossing the Earth’s orbit for millions of years. This asteroid has been seen and its position has been measured and recorded as far back as the middle ages.

The Russians have nudged its orbit using a small nuclear device, which deflected it enough to send it on a collision course with Earth where it will slam into the USA. The Russian have effectively weaponized an asteroid. Actually, it’s brilliant. They can destroy the USA without resorting to nuclear weapons and the resulting massive cloud of radioactive dust that would shroud the Earth.

This was my first big problem with the plot. The Russians would have to be able to control, in a preposterously precise manner, the size of their asteroid shove to target not only the Earth but also a specific place on the Earth which happens to be moving in space and also revolving on its own axis. This sort of mind bending calculation involving two bodies in motion in space is one of, and probably the main reason Sir Isaac Newton invented calculus. Mr. Clarke seems to think calculus in all of its forms can provide the answers to successfully solve this problem. OK, I’ll buy that. My problem disappears.

The USA taps the five greatest living astronomers to, in actual fact, save the USA from total annihilation. Their mission is twofold. They need to first find the asteroid, code named Nemesis, and they also need to destroy it or deflect it away from Earth. If they fail then the Joint Chiefs will compel the President, just before the asteroid hits, to launch an all out nuclear attack on Russia.

Asteroids are dark, hard to see and harder to locate. They are not like comets which burn and have a luminous tail. Our astronomers discover that Nemesis will be approaching Earth from a low angle and, unfortunately, with the sun at its back making it almost impossible to see. This is exceedingly bad news. Maybe they can destroy it.

One idea is to blow it up with a salvo of thermonuclear devices. The real fear in this idea is that it would break the asteroid into many large pieces that would take out the entire western hemisphere.

Idea two is to bombard it with many hydrogen bombs thereby reducing it to dust. The fear in this idea is that the Earth’s gravity would capture most of the dust and it would blanket the Earth, engendering a nuclear winter.

Idea three is already doomed to failure: nudge the asteroid so it misses Earth. But it’s too close and the nudge would probably destroy the Earth.

Can space aliens drop out of light-drive in time to save the good guys? Will it be found that Russians

mathematicians forgot to move a decimal point and the asteroid misses the Earth? Will there be a sequel to Nemesis by Bill Napier? Find out next time when Bob Gelms will again NOT give away the ending. LOL Nemesis is fast moving, action packed, with surprises in abundance. This is a thriller of the first magnitude.

anthony lanigan says

An excellent thriller.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book as it had an excellent storyline throughout, with plenty of action spread through the story. The storyline was plausible and the detail of modern technology with the historical facets made the book very enjoyable.

Geryl D Gilbert says

Astronomy with a twist!

While the book starts out somewhat slow and very technical in terms of astronomy , it begins to take shape and finally ends with a bang! The characters are extremely interesting, the storyline is excellent and the action is wonderful!
