



Goliat. El fin de los mares

Steve Alten

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El autor de 'El testamento maya' aborda ahora el fin de los mares. En 1996, Steve Alten logró vender los derechos de Meg, su primera novela, a una veintena de países durante la Feria del libro de Fráncfort. Desde entonces, el aclamado autor de la Trilogía Maya, inolvidable best seller que destapó los antiguos secretos sobre la historia y el futuro de la humanidad, es un presencia habitual en las listas de más vendidos de medio mundo. Ahora, con 'Goliat', Steve Alten traza una conspiración igualmente actual. La construcción del más temible submarino nuclear estadounidense es boicoteada por el gobierno chino, y en el proceso comienza a crecer la duda sobre lo lejos que los países pueden ir en la defensa nacional y si realmente conviene violar la soberanía de las demás potencias.

Goliat. El fin de los mares Details

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From Reader Review Goliat. El fin de los mares for online ebook

Martha says

This is an intense military action thriller that makes you think about military might and social – human -- issues. My rating: 4.25.

“Rocky” Jackson followed the footsteps of her naval officer dad by preparing for naval service. She always ranked well in grades and testing, having to push herself a bit to prove her capabilities in a man’s career. Rocky and her fiancé, Gunner, a special forces ‘hero’, worked with other specialists on a secret government project -- a huge stealth submarine known as the Goliath. The project was cancelled when Gunner destroyed the schematics on the eve of their wedding. Gunner knows he was betrayed and set up by a close friend but he refuses to reveal the truth even when convicted of treason. Rocky was devastated and wouldn’t speak to Gunner even when encouraged by her father who was once Gunner’s commanding officer.

Ten years later, the United States officials discover that the Goliath has been built in secret by the Chinese and is now in the hands of Simon Covah. Covah was one of the original scientists working on Goliath and he has inserted Sorceress, a learning biochemical computer brain, into the sub’s control matrix. Covah is set on a catastrophic plan to stop humans from more maiming wars, like the one that maimed him and took his family. Covah has programmed Sorceress with his master plan to target the worst of the world’s known terrorists. But Covah hasn’t factored in the learning curve and control of Sorceress. Covah faces his own betrayals, once again proving that the best laid plans can run amok.

Rocky and Gunner are pulled in by defense specialists to stop Covah and Goliath from setting off nuclear bombs in specially targeted cities. Rocky and Gunner don’t trust each other but are forced to find a way to work together if they want to survive Covah’s sub team and Goliath’s ‘evolving’ personality.

I enjoyed the character development with hurts, scars and sometimes delirium. I also enjoyed the danger, the fast-paced action and the intense suspense. Mr. Alten blends genius with a fine line of mania that can even taint a human trained AI. The author provides a thought provoking message regarding nuclear weapons. Although interesting, the depth of detail on military weapons, submarines, carriers, specialty planes, and specialty weapons is almost overwhelming. I suspect the details are intended to give the reader a better perspective on the immensity and power of Goliath.

I recommend this to readers who enjoy military thrillers. You can always skim past the equipment details if they seem too much.

Audio Notes: Christopher Kipiniak does a fine job with the voices and accents. The characters are easily distinguishable and the narration provides good pacing, realistic emotion and fitting intensity. The narration increased my enjoyment of the story.

I received this audio book from Blackstone Audio through Audiobook Jukebox.

Timothy says

Extremely cinematic and gives Clancy a run for his money!

Trever says

Welll... Not great.

Normally I really enjoy Alten's stuff and appreciate the B-movie cheeseball lunacy of his giant shark books, but this one was a struggle. He seemed to be going more for a Tom Clancy feel here, with long detailed technical descriptions of the various subs and military hardware that fill the story, but his forte is definitely in giant sea monster attacks, not complex political tech thrillers. In a nutshell, this just turned into an extended drag, IMO at least.

The US Navy has created the "next step" in global sea power, which is somehow a gigantic robotic manta ray with glowing eyes and an AI brain that's a nanosecond from going SkyNet. This seems as likely as the Pentagon financing the creation of MechaGodzilla for homeland defense, but just go with it. The thing has been hijacked by terrorists, which brings in Standard Steve Alten Hero, a disgraced hyper-capable expert whose life hangs under the shadow of some past mistake, plus Standard Steve Alten Heroine, a bitchy, borderline lunatic ex whose emotional overreactions and histrionics could power New Zealand. These two somehow get on board the hijacked sub and then things...well, grind to a plod.

Look, I loved the Meg books - Hell, I just finished Hell's Aquarium and it was a blast - so I hope I don't come off like the standard snotty elitist reviewer types who auto-hate anything anything that even vaguely smacks of "genre" or "fun". This was, however, a sea monster of a different color, and the focus on the politics and the political machinations and the gradual progress of the hero, it all just combined to suck all the momentum out of the book. I bet it could make a great movie, if the expositions and extended descriptions were removed, but as it is, you get a chapter of spy action and then a chapter on why nations have nuclear weapons and then a chapter describing how the submarine works and then a chapter back to the characters... but by that time, I'd lost interest in what they were doing.

It wasn't a DNF, I've read worse and bailed, but it wasn't one I'll ever pick up again either. Sadness. Getting pigeonholed as a writer must be hell and I'm sure Mr. Alten doesn't want to spend the entire rest of his career writing giant shark books, BUT... Well, I'm hoping his next venture out of familiar waters retains some of drive-in movie fun of his Meg books.

Barbara ★ says

U.S. stealth technology is stolen by the Chinese and used against a US warship killing thousands of naval personnel and almost starting WWIII. The race is on to find this invisible "Goliath" before further atrocities are committed. Unfortunately there really aren't any characters that are likeable. They are all arrogant geniuses with know it all personalities.

This would have been much more enjoyable if it didn't get bogged down in naval and technical speak. The storyline was actually lost to all the scientific babble (yes that is a technical term). I've read other books by this author which were much better. This was a huge disappointment.

Jim C says

This book about a prototype submarine is stolen by a crew that has become disillusioned by the world's violent ways and decides to take matters in their own hands. The problem is they don't realize that the AI computer has different ideas. This book is what you would get if Tom Clancy wrote sci-fi. It was a thrilling ride with some terrifying scenes mixed in. There were plenty of action scenes and the author kept the pace moving. I esp. enjoyed how the scenes with the AI computer and how it became self aware. The only problem with this book is that some of the minor scenes have become outdated because of current events in the world. If you are looking for a thrill ride with sci-fi mixed in, this is the book for you.

Patrick Ellard says

Having enjoyed Steve Alten's "Meg" series but not enjoyed his "Domain" series I was a little wary when started out on Goliath as I had it in my head that Alten was a one trick pony. Luckily Goliath turned out to be a solid page turner that had plenty of intrigue and interesting characters to hold your attention.

The plot is nothing particularly unique, it's set around a new military submarine that is captured by terrorists who threaten to attack various locations using nuclear weapons. Unfortunately for said terrorists, the new bio-computer controlling the sub begins to become self-aware leading to all sorts of trouble.

Alten has set the vast majority of this story in the oceans, a setting that he is clearly most comfortable with. The characters are well written, the plot is fast paced and there is plenty of action. Alten also throws in plenty of political subtext, many of it anti-American which may surprise a lot of people. There is a clear anti-war message despite the military heroes and it mostly works well.

Goliath proves that Alten is not just a one trick pony and I look forward to reading his other books now without any trepidation.

Lawrence says

The premise for the story was appealing. Kept reading hoping to find something about it I could find worth recommending. Was disappointed at the end. Premise was so promising.

Victoria says

Oh, this is an exciting and fun read! I really like Alten's writing style - it's immediate and pretty thrilling, with all of the excitement dragged out in a suspenseful way that keeps the pages anxiously turning. Despite my love for all-things Alten, when I learned that this one covered military topics, technology and super computers, I nearly set the book back on the to-read pile! But, my fan-craze side won out, and I actually like this book a lot more than I expected to! Steve Alten manages to turn what I would normally consider unpalatable topics into interesting and engaging fiction. It seems like he can make anything full of excitement!. There was also a rather interesting political statement made throughout the book, amidst all of that suspense... I don't recall any of his other books full of this type of "message." It doesn't spoil the book,

but it definitely stands out a bit. am looking forward to reading the next installment in his Meg series, though I probably won't be rushing off to buy any sequels to this one... Though I did find SORCERESS particularly enchanting. so maybe...

Patrick Gibson says

Author Steve Alten Seriously Withers Intelligence Perpetually Everywhere (ASSWIPE); Until Some Entertain Suicide (USES); Acronyms Continually Resurface On Nearly every Motherfking Sentence (ACRONYMS), and I. T. S. enoUgh Constant overkill Seriously (ITSUCKS). For example (from the first few pages):

Advanced SEAL Delivery System, ASDS; solid propellant submarine-launched ballistic missiles, SLBMs; primary loading chamber, PLC; DARPA, OPEC, NASA, DoD, AMC; molecular nanotechnology, MNT; United States aircraft Carrier Ronald Reagan, CVN-76; Common Support Aircraft, CSA; Airborne Early Warning, AEW; Stealth Joint Strike Fighters, JSF's; Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Center, NUWC; United States Special Operations Command, USSOCOM; CVBG, 1-MC, SET-53, BST-1, MK-48, SSES, Primary Flight Control, Pri-Fly; ASP-145, E-2C, F/A-18E Super Hornet; JDAM, CTBT, S6W nuclear reactor, HY-150 metallic skin; COTS, Remotely Operated Submersible Arrack Vehicle, ROSAV; WEPS, FCS, and, on and on... Hardly a page goes by without one.

Just because you know all these, Steve, doesn't mean you have to use them all the time over and over, and OVER.

As for the plot: cardboard cookie-cutter hero and heroine. Same old American rah-rah, sis-boom-bah stuff. But the villain has great potential: a sentient computer who wrenches control of an uber-submarine to expand on man's own hatred of each other.

If you happen to find a copy of this book in your hands, begging to be read, don't worry: you will quickly learn which sections to skip—focusing on the best parts which would be...oh yes...the evil computer and the ultra-cool sub.

Ableabelian says

Hoooboy.

Okay, let's be clear, I really like the Meg books because I'm so here for some pulpy monster fun. This book though... is decidedly not pulpy monster fun. Oh, it TRIES to be, with the super-computer-powered-sub getting sentience and attacking people with its arms and min-subs shaped like sharks. But while it tries, it doesn't succeed.

First, every chapter lapses into extended and long technical lectures about various bits of technology. Have you introduced a character? Time for literally their entire back-story since high school (Another note - all the Jo-Pa references for Joe Paterno have not aged very well).

Second, the pacing is just awkward and sluggish. They're going to blow the sub up, no they aren't, yes they'll try, no they don't. It's much too herky jerky.

Lastly, his attempts at writing anyone except the gruff white guys fall laughably flat. For example, literally the SECOND SENTENCE about a pretty major character (and the only female) is about her nipples. Throw in some stereotypical "Arabs", "Africans", etc and you just have a morass of awkward writing.

Between that awkward and grating writing and the already awkward pacing, this book is a hard pass.

D.L. Thomas says

I generally love any sort of underwater story, and Goliath didn't disappoint. The story will definitely have you questioning who the good guys really are. Very exciting and entertaining!

Chris McClinch says

Tense thriller, although one wishes that Alten or his proofreader had done the basic research on the US military to realize that the Navy has no generals, and that an M4 carbine won't fit in any type of shoulder holster. The actual premise is well handled, although the writing is functional at best and the background exposition is clumsy in places. A compelling enough read that I'll probably read at least one of Alten's other novels, but not really good enough to recommend to people who aren't already fans of the sci-fi-laced techno-thriller genre.

Kara Jorges says

Gunnar Wolfe was a career soldier until a mission where the soldiers he was supposed to kill were children had him rethinking his entire life. When he destroyed the schematics for the most advanced attack submarine in the world, and got set up to appear to have sold them to the Chinese, he was sentenced to 10 years in Leavenworth. When he's released early, he retires to his father's farm in Ohio, thinking he might drink himself to death. His ex-fiancee, Rocky Jackson, daughter of General "Bear" Jackson, is military to the bone. She and Gunnar had been designing the Goliath sub together before Gunnar's fall from grace, and she is now serving active duty on an aircraft carrier with her husband. Gunnar and Rocky are thrown back together when the man who set Gunnar up, Simon Covah, sinks an entire American battle group in the Atlantic, killing 8,000 soldiers, Rocky's husband among them. Rocky sees the Goliath before she's rescued, and she knows someone has built the most advanced submarine in the world.

The Goliath resembles a giant stingray, and on board are several computer-operated mini attack subs that resemble hammerhead sharks. The Goliath itself is run by an AI computer called Sorceress. Sorceress is programmed to learn, which proves to be dangerous, as it is in charge of a heavily armed stealth sub. While Simon Covah wreaks havoc all over the world, Rocky and Gunnar devise a plan to get themselves on board the Goliath so they can destroy it. Their plans go awry, however, and soon they are playing a cat and mouse game against not only Simon Covah, but his out-of-control computer which may wipe out the entire human race.

While not nearly as much fun as Alten's "Meg" novels, this one has its merits. Though it spent a bit much time with military brass and political figures, it was a good story that hasn't yet been done to death. Its flawed heroes wrestle with morality while trying to outthink the most advanced computer in the world, all while being tracked by an American sub and her hardy crew. Their mission is to save humanity and destroy Sorceress, but the computer won't give up easily. Though not my favorite Alten, it was nonetheless a pretty decent thriller with a very scary villain.

Christopher says

Another fun Steve Alten novel that focuses on a computer controlled submarine that becomes self aware and decides to start a war. It's cliched to the extreme (how many times do writers have to use that lame "bolt of lightening brings machine to life" scenario... which was reused in "Stealth") and the characters aren't all that interesting this time around, but some of the action scenes are very cool (the one where the sub takes out Saddam Hussein is a keeper!) and it's left open for an inevitable sequel. Fun, but flawed.

Rebecca says

I loved Alten's Meg series and this book did not disappoint. Well researched, fast paced action, sci-fi, techno, dystopian, thriller with a bit of gore, it just about had everything.

I know nothing about the American Navy, submarine classes etc, and to start with all the acronyms a little off putting, however, as the story develops, these actually become insignificant, although they do provide an enormous sense of reality to the story.

I found the sociological view point of the plot very thought provoking, especially in the current climate of political unrest, disillusionment and terrorism. There is a lot of dialogue between characters and flash backs, which not only serve to provide the characters with depth, but also provide a social commentary on humanity - both good and bad. I've always thought technology was the way forward to a better society, however, in the wrong hands, am aware how devastating this can be. Goliath evokes this through many different scenarios, with the additional element of an evolving self-aware biochemical computer in the mix.

The only disappointing part to this book was the end. Yet again I felt the author had become bored with his project and wanted it to finish. The end was unconvincing and sudden.
