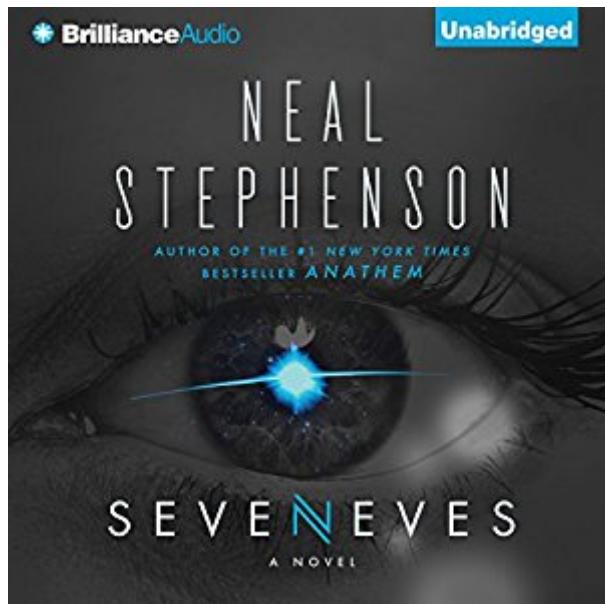


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Seveneves: A Novel



Synopsis

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Anathem*, *Reamde*, and *Cryptonomicon* comes an exciting and thought-provoking science fiction epic - a grand story of annihilation and survival spanning five thousand years. What would happen if the world were ending? A catastrophic event renders the earth a ticking time bomb. In a feverish race against the inevitable, nations around the globe band together to devise an ambitious plan to ensure the survival of humanity far beyond our atmosphere, in outer space. But the complexities and unpredictability of human nature coupled with unforeseen challenges and dangers threaten the intrepid pioneers, until only a handful of survivors remain.... Five thousand years later, their progeny - seven distinct races now three billion strong - embark on yet another audacious journey into the unknown...to an alien world utterly transformed by cataclysm and time: Earth. A writer of dazzling genius and imaginative vision, Neal Stephenson combines science, philosophy, technology, psychology, and literature in a magnificent work of speculative fiction that offers a portrait of a future that is both extraordinary and eerily recognizable. As he did in *Anathem*, *Cryptonomicon*, the *Baroque Cycle*, and *Reamde*, Stephenson explores some of our biggest ideas and perplexing challenges in a breathtaking saga that is daring, engrossing, and altogether brilliant.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I've been a Neal Stephenson fan since the early 90s when I read *Snow Crash* and I've been a massive fan ever since. He has pulled off an amazing feat, he CONSISTENTLY writes novels that

are powered by profound ideas, well-developed characters, and hair-raising action. His earlier novels had all of these elements (and I love them deeply) but as he moved into "long form" novels like Cryptonomicon, The Baroque Cycle, Anathem, and Reamde, he put more emphasis on the ideas and how they develop and change over time. This is most evident in Cryptonomicon and The Baroque Cycle which take place at different points throughout history and follow the development of science, technology, money, politics, and... well, lots of stuff. I like all his work but I can dig why it isn't everyone's cup of tea. The math-intensive asides in Anathem and the discussions of various royal lineages and alchemical concepts in the Baroque Cycle are just a bit too much for many people and I also got bogged down in them. But it is ALWAYS worth the effort to see where he takes the story thereafter. So now that my fanboy preamble is over, let's check in with his new novel, Seveneves. **SPOILER FREE** Seveneves, as other reviewers have mentioned, begins with the moon being destroyed by a force (or forces) unknown, giving humanity roughly two years to get our act together and come up with a long-term survival plan before an apocalyptic bombardment begins that will sterilize the surface of the planet. We then meet one of his best casts of characters, written with the depth that is one of Stephenson's major strengths as an author.

TL;DR - This is the worst of Neal Stephenson's books, by a very large margin. Huge plot holes, no character development whatsoever, multiple poorly developed points of view leading to superficial protagonists, illogical premises, inconsistent story-world. If you are a die-hard Neal Stephenson fan this will be on your bookshelf anyway, but wait for the bargain bin copy. If you are into space exploration, hard sci fi, or post-apocalypse and TEOTWAWKI scenarios - spare yourself the time and effort and read pretty much anything else in that area. **Detailed review [BIG SPOILERS]:** I can safely be described as a life-long fan of Neal Stephenson's work, and have read and own all of his books. I feel I must say that as a preface to what comes next. Seveneves is by far the worst book written by Neal Stephenson, and that includes the meandering narrative of the Baroque Cycle, and the collaborative Mongoliad effort. Usually fiction of the magnitude of Seveneves, running close to a thousand pages, suffers from some weak points by sheer nature of its size and complexity as a story. That being the case, it doesn't mean that the whole book will suffer from these weaknesses, because if the fundamental structural elements of the story are sound then the whole will stand on its own. Unfortunately, Seveneves is a disaster in every respect. The moon blows up and humanity has 2 years to find a way to survive as a species before the earth is bombarded by a meteorite shower lasting several thousand years and obliterating everything on the surface of the planet.

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