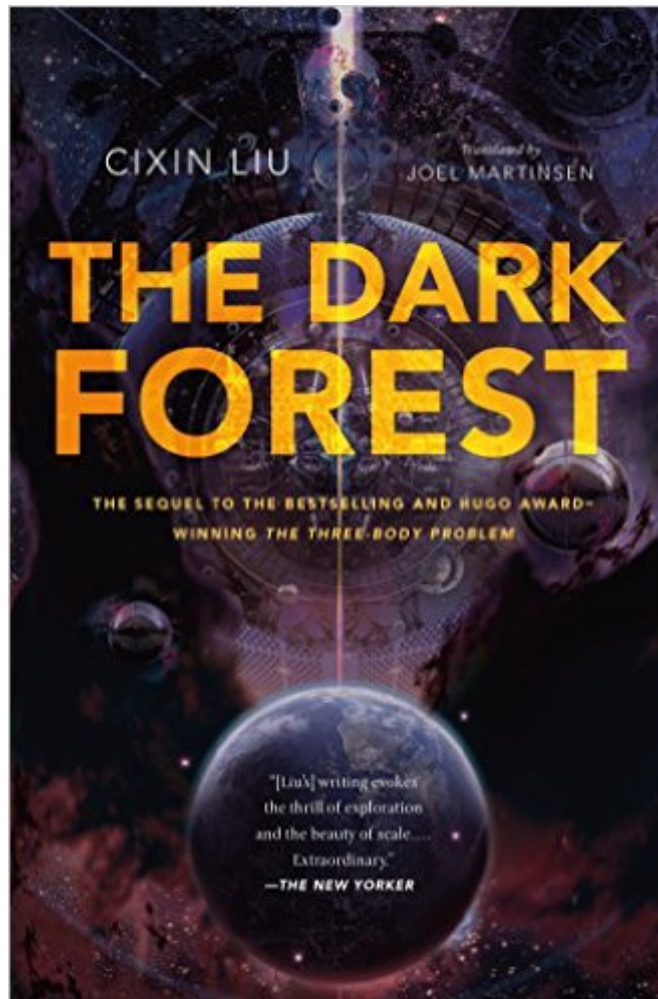


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The Dark Forest (Remembrance Of Earth's Past)



Synopsis

This near-future trilogy is the first chance for English-speaking readers to experience this multiple-award-winning phenomenon from Cixin Liu, China's most beloved science fiction author. In *The Dark Forest*, Earth is reeling from the revelation of a coming alien invasion-in just four centuries' time. The aliens' human collaborators may have been defeated, but the presence of the sophons, the subatomic particles that allow Trisolaris instant access to all human information, means that Earth's defense plans are totally exposed to the enemy. Only the human mind remains a secret. This is the motivation for the Wallfacer Project, a daring plan that grants four men enormous resources to design secret strategies, hidden through deceit and misdirection from Earth and Trisolaris alike. Three of the Wallfacers are influential statesmen and scientists, but the fourth is a total unknown. Luo Ji, an unambitious Chinese astronomer and sociologist, is baffled by his new status. All he knows is that he's the one Wallfacer that Trisolaris wants dead.

Book Information

Series: Remembrance of Earth's Past (Book 2)

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Tor Books; Reprint edition (August 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0765386690

ISBN-13: 978-0765386694

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (322 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,115 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Hard Science Fiction](#) #117 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > First Contact](#) #136 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Alien Invasion](#)

Customer Reviews

The second book of this series, *The Dark Forest*, has its obvious shortcomings. The most glaring flaw I personally feel is Luo Ji (the leading character of the second book)'s romance with his dream girl. But how many engaging love stories have been told by scifi authors anyway? In addition, for American readers who have enjoyed the Chinese cultural/historical aspects of book one, reading *The Dark Forest* requires no understanding of the Chinese culture. Some of my friends

also think that the Wallfacer project does not make much sense, but I disagree. This book deserves a five-star rating thoroughly. Unlike the Three-Body Problem that bears the burden of slowly laying the contextual foundation for the plot of the entire book series, the pace of The Dark Forest moves rather quickly from the beginning. There is no three-body computer game anymore. But a different game is played between four Wallfacers and their respective Wallbreakers. Each Wallfacer tried and failed in searching for a way to counter the looming invasion. Yet it does not seem to matter because, before the first alien fleet arrives, human technology has accelerated and risen to a level that rivals the alien race. Yes, inter-planetary peace is afoot. Part III of The Dark Forest is the climax and most dramatic stage of the entire trilogy series. Both Luo Ji and Zhang Beihai — two leading characters of the book — are awoken from century-long hibernation to witness the human race's first physical contact with the aliens. I am not going to the details because it will spoil the fun of your reading. Suffice it to say there are several brilliant twists of the plot that forces the question: what is humanity after all?

I know it sounds silly when I say reading this novel makes me feel smarter. It's not the quantum physics, the string theories, all that high concept science jazz. I won't say that I understand all those theories in a million years, but the author builds and presents those hard sci-fi theories in a formula that makes an average person (like me) feel believable. What I mean by the "feeling smarter" part is that the author's boundless imagination really stretches my mind's horizon. I still can't believe all these fascinating ideas and plot twists are presented in one novel series (and we are only 2/3 through). Liu's complete dark, cruel and heartless cosmic sociology theory is really the best explanation of Fermi's paradox I've ever heard, consider we as humans, were this close to self-annihilation merely 50 years ago at the height of the Cold War, and we are really not that different from each other as a specie! The best scene (SPOILER) from the book for me was when the entire human space fleet facing total annihilation at the hand of one single Trisolarian probe, two ships tried to escape the onslaught by sacrificing their entire crews just for the hope of saving two useful spaceships for humanity, but to no avail. The brutally horrendous graphical description of their deaths, the devastating sense of complete hopelessness, really make those ultimate sacrifices speak in tremendous volume, what a glorious (but deep deep deeply heart wrenching) scene. I particularly appreciate the author's take on the many faces of humanity, the pessimism and optimism, arrogance and naive, suspicion and faith. Looking back at our history of thousands of years, humanity really hasn't changed, 400 years and more advanced technology sure aren't going to change much neither.

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