



## Speculative Fiction Book Review

Book Title	<b>God Star</b>
Author	<b>Simon Kewin</b>
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Stars	

Writing a trilogy is a mammoth undertaking, especially within the science fiction genre. Handling the scale of the story, the huge cast of characters and sustaining the narrative energy to deliver the reader to a satisfying conclusion represents a huge undertaking.

God Star is the conclusion of Simon Kewin's Triple Stars trilogy and it achieves all those things brilliantly. Its energy especially is the key. To mix my metaphors for a moment, a narrative spanning three novels is a weaving exercise on the scale of carpet manufacture. It involves knitting together details from Book One and Two that suddenly turn out to be vital threads. These elements of surprise provide this energy I'm talking about. Just as it looks like things couldn't get any worse for our protagonists, one of those threads appear. It is superbly clever planning. Introduce them too soon, the energy dips. Leave it too late, the thread risks being labelled trite and contrived.

It's why I raced through this book. The threats, the terrible ordeals that people face, the galaxy-wide Armageddon, they build and build until I found myself holding my breath in places. The characters are crucial to this momentum. Selene remains as driven, uncompromising and long-suffering as ever. Ondo, poor Ondo! Spoilers prevent me from saying more. The introduction of Malleus and Lilith who complement each other so well and whose roles are not entirely clear until the end (more loose threads!).

I loved this series. Absolutely loved it. I've compared Simon Kewin to Arthur C Clarke in my previous two reviews so won't pursue the comparison now. But in those classic stories (I'd include Asimov's Foundation trilogy here too) the story is as much to do with the nature of people. It is this examination of the human condition which is explored here – frequently with non-human characters. There is Love and Evil, of course. But there is self-sacrifice, relentless ambition and greed, pain and torment which can rip away humanity. This is so much more than just a science fiction story with spaceships, aliens and evil empires. It is high concept, intelligent, heart-warming, thrilling as well as space opera at its best.

Read the Triple Stars series by Simon Kewin. I cannot recommend it enough.