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Transient Echoes: A Dystopian Sci-fi Novel (The Variant Saga Book 2)



Synopsis

It has been three years since the day of the Second Jolt. Thanks to the efforts of a select few, the world is finally moving on. As the Variant air begins to thin, humanity finds itself on the cusp of a new age of exploration—but at what cost? After closing the rift—the source of all Variants—the hybrid child known as Terry has been transported to a distant world, far away from the only home he's ever known. Completely isolated, and haunted by voices from his past, he wanders through the ruins of an ancient civilization long forgotten. Back on Earth, a young woman named Mei works tirelessly to uncover the secrets of the rift. Against orders, she searches for the truth, making an unprecedented gamble. Will her obsession bring the answers she so desperately seeks—or will it cause even more destruction?

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Customer Reviews

Audiobook was provided for review by AudioBookReviewer dot com. In the Amber Project we left Terry in a new world after he closed the rift, which will be called the Second Jolt. This story starts three years later, in the year 2350. There are two parallel stories in this book. On one hand, Terry is scouting around the new place where he got trapped and where the variant came from, and on the other hand, his friends John and Mei are investigating what could have happened to Terry, and

whether he may still be alive. Mei leads an investigation team on the place where the Jolts took place, to check why there is an increasing radiation in this area and to investigate a new power source. The increasing radiation will be the main issue that will prevent them to get to the exact place where the Jolts originated, and where Terry got lost. The style of this book is completely different to the first one, keeping the story fresh. It is more slowly paced and we are presented with two parallel stories. Chaney knows how to keep us interested though, since in both stories there are mysteries to be revealed, and we accompany the characters in their way to finding the truth. I think this is one of the aspects that I enjoyed most of this book: investigating and discovering things along with the characters, making hypothesis now and then. When an author gets this from their readers, I think it is a complete success. Chaney really knows how slowly unfold the truth and keep us interested until the very end. Another strong point is how the characters are built. We are not given a zillion details about them but they are alive, they feel human, and one can easily connect with them.

Transient Echoes was a superb follow-up to The Amber Project (Book 1 of the Variant Saga). J. N. Chaney delivers again with this novel. This book picks up 3 years after the completion of book 1. The Variant gas has started to dissipate, but is not completely gone on the surface of Earth. The lower levels are allowing non-genetically modified humans to be able to slowly come up to the surface to work and experiment with the use of suits. Mei is leading a team of researchers. Which the military is sending up teams to map and eradicate any of the hostile creatures that they come into contact with and this is a perfect place for John to show his prowess. Terry has been living alone in survival mode for the last 3 years when he finally finds himself venturing off into further exploration of this strange Variant planet. This book is told from the dual perspective of Terry on an alien world, and Mei working at the last known location before Terry disappeared. I spent a lot of time in the beginning wondering if Terry was actually on another planet or if he was just transported to somewhere else on Earth. I love that Chaney is able to write such a superb young adult/dystopian novel without any real hook of romance. It is quite rare to find a book without such a huge focus on romance. There is nothing against romance, but it does not need to be the focal point of every single book. If a character can stand out and be defined by themselves for their prowess, it is awesome. There is a slight Mei/John vibe that has grown from Book 1, but it does not detract from the story in any way. My only negatives or questions while reading are: What happened to all of the other modified children?

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