



## The Exiles Trilogy

*Ben Bova*

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Computer engineer Lou Christopher's life falls apart when the World Government decrees that the project he is working on is too dangerous to continue. Thus, he and thousands of other scientists and their families are sentenced to permanent exile from Earth on a space station. But Lou and several others decide to escape--by converting the space station into a starship.

## **The Exiles Trilogy Details**

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Author : Ben Bova

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## From Reader Review The Exiles Trilogy for online ebook

### Christopher says

I read the third and final book about 24 years ago, when I was 12 and I enjoyed it. When I saw the collected trilogy and had to pick it up.

Now that I'm older, reading the first two left me wondering if maybe the third would be a let down when I re-read the end again. But WOW, I absolutely loved the "End of Exile". Far, far superior than the first two books. And I loved it even more having finally read the two before it.

While books 1 and 2 are enjoyable, sometimes unintentionally amusing by how outdated they are, sometimes the characters and plot devices feel a little weak. But finally reading the history of what lead to book 3 and providing the overall context, really made me enjoy the final book even more than the first time I read it all those years before.

As a whole I'm just giving 2 stars, but on its own, I'd give book three even more.

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### Kevin C says

Absolutely one of my favourite books ever. I think I've read it 3 times. I'm hoping there'll be a kindle edition at some point so I can read it again! (my paperback copy is a bit worn out). I found it amazing to see how the crew's perception of their ship, their lives, and the universe changes through the three stories. To quote a famous vulcan...fascinating!!

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### Zac says

There's different levels of willing-suspension-of-disbelief; for example, there's giving yourself over to the rules of the universe laid out by the author and only judging the content based on those, and then there's yet the far other extreme which can only be defined as getting through this trilogy without openly laughing at times.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed this. It was fun. Pretty entertaining though without particularly strong characters or new in concepts.

Some of it did not age at all well - the male protagonists are pretty stagnantly and notably old school, I'd say 50s era gruff misogynist.

Anyway - it was a pretty empty but entertaining little read. Not much to it and if you take issue with openly ridiculous improbabilities, nay IMPOSSIBILITIES (book 3 ought to simply be titled 'Ex Nihilo'), then you might want to just put it down now.

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## **Sarah says**

Recommended to me by my husband, The Exiles Trilogy is good, old-fashioned scifi. It's amusing in places because the 1970s in it comes out from time to time, but overall, the storyline remains plausible. Though at times I found some of the characters' justifications for their actions to be a bit thin (such as the reason for exiling the scientists in the first place) the book is a page turner that should keep any scifi fan engaged.

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## **Todd says**

I want more! An interesting journey over a century that held my interest from page one. I do want to know what happened to everyone in the end, this series leaves me wanting more.

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## **K. Axel says**

As most of my books, this one has travelled all around my apartment, from my shelves, to several boxes and even gathered a bit of dust in the basement at one point. Yes, I've even tried to read it two times but couldn't get into it and if you ask me why... I have no sane answer for you!

### ***The Story...***

Lou Christopher is an ordinary man, a programmer who works on a big gene project. He is no geneticist, yet finds himself a part of a grand plot to exile all the geneticists of the world. Apparently these are the most feared men of the world as they have within their grasp, the power to create a race of super-humans. The World Government fear how people will react to this news when it is released and instead captures all the geneticists, a couple of rocket scientists and then, of course, Lou Christopher.

To begin with, Lou manages to escape the police force trying to arrest him, but is in the end betrayed by his girlfriend. For a while, Lou finds a way out of exile, working on the gene project for a renegade politician. He tries to make one more escape, this time from the grasp of the politician, but finds himself aboard the space station that works as a prison.

Life aboard the space station is a dull life indeed. There is nothing here and the future looks very bleak. But then a thought surfaces... what if they could manage to make the space station into a spacecraft? What if they could leave Earth for a faraway planet? Would it even be possible to execute such a dream? They manage to convince the World Government that this is a good idea and when the second book starts, we are 50 years into the future where we meet Dan, the child of Lou Christopher and Larry, the son of Greg, one of Lou's friends.

Will the scientists find a planet that is inhabitable or will the spacecraft break down before then? There are many questions to be answered and I won't spoil your experience by revealing what happens afterwards!

### ***My Judgment...***

This book captivated me early on by revealing a world much darker than I had anticipated. It is a bleak future that Ben Bova has imagined for our Earth... a future where the big cities have been abandoned by the wealthy, leaving the streets open for the gangs to roam. It is a future with a World Government that fears the future and want only to keep the people down. It is a future without a future.

I find it hard to read books that has the label "hardcore science fiction", and while I thought this book might be one of those, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it... isn't. This is a very human story. Sure, the book introduces lots of new technology... but it isn't the focus of the story.

I can also tell you that the third book blew me away! It is much different from the two that came before it, but certainly couldn't stand on its own. The ending leaves you hanging on the edge and only on the very last page does it release you. I did not see this ending coming, and I am really glad that I didn't.

The Exile Trilogy is one of the best books that I've read in years... worth every minute!

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## Metaphorosis says

[reviews.metaphorosis.com](http://reviews.metaphorosis.com)

3 stars

I usually break omnibus e-books into parts to read and review. But the total size of this trilogy is only 450 or so pages, so I read them all together. That has pluses in that it's easy to follow the path of the story, but minuses in that the stories are somewhat distinct (and can be read independently).

**Exiled from Earth** While all three books were written in the early to mid 70s, the first is the one that reads most like it (or even earlier). The hero is strong and capable, the woman is delicate. There's a very nice touch regarding a gorilla, but overall it's a fairly standard adventure story. There's nothing wrong with it, but there's also nothing in particular to recommend it. The writing is smooth (allowing for the change in times), and the plot is thin but adequate - the world government decides to preserve stability by imprisoning (in an orbital habitat) all geneticists, because some have discovered a way to extend life.

**Flight of Exiles** This is a love-triangle mystery set around the arrival of the habitat (now implausibly converted to a spaceship) at a new world. The science fictional elements here are really just backdrop for the personal drama. The story is decent, fuller than the first, and the characters more rounded (and less trapped in their era). Still, I'd either read this book before, or read one just like it by someone else; it had a very familiar feel to it.

**End of Exile** Clearly the best book in the trilogy. It's a variation on Heinlein's *Orphans of the Sky*, about a generation ship that has forgotten its purpose. It's not as involved as Heinlein's story, but is more hopeful and approachable. It's weaker on personal relationships and credibility than book 2, but manages to be the most moving and involving of the set. If you're buying the books individually, I can safely recommend starting with this one, and reading the others for background if you want to. If you buy the full trilogy, rest easy that they get better as you go.

All in all, a decent trilogy, but only the last book is really strong. If you find the trilogy for a low cost, that one is worth the price of entry. The others are a good way to pass some time, but won't change your life in any way.

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## **Trevor Boot says**

I read this back in 2003 (I don't remember the dates but had to pick one so made it three weeks in May, one for each book), but I still remember it in detail to this day. The three books in this trilogy are part of the same continuing narrative, but each one is its own unique story with its own characters. Even though I haven't read it in fifteen years, I still highly recommend it!

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## **john says**

### **A younger read ..**

But well paced and interesting characters. Basically 3 novellas tieing closley together . Teenage sci fi fans this is a great starting point

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## **Matt says**

This trilogy is great in its simplicity. Separate, they could be called novellas, but together they make a very entertaining read. They are together in one volume because they should be read back-to-back(-to-back). What makes the volume so interesting is that between each story, about 50 years have passed so the setting/atmosphere of each piece is completely different (as are the characters). Each story is great, but there is never any overlap to make the stories boring. The characters in each story are just complicated enough to make the story compelling, yet not cumbersome. The stories are straightforward, but gripping and suspenseful at the same time. I read this book when I was about thirteen and it got me into the genre. This is a book even for those who aren't fans of the genre, as this is an entertaining book you won't be able to put down.

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## **Bruce McNair says**

This book reminded me of why I liked Science Fiction when growing up during the 60s and 70s. Although the science may be a little dated, there is still plenty of adventure, rockets, space travel and new worlds. The 3 stories although connected by theme are quite different in that the time and the characters are totally different. The third story has an almost post-apocalyptic feel to it. I've read a few Ben Bova stories before and this is certainly one of his better ones.

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## **Bruce says**

[ He escapes to return to his desert laboratory with its giant computer, only to be recaptured because the computer turns him in, then he escapes to his girlfriend's apartment, only to be recaptured because she turns him in. Then he's whisked off to World Government Headquarte

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### **Veronica Lakewood says**

it is important to understand that this book was written some years ago. I was just a teenage girl in high school when I read it. We didn't have cell phones, internet, or 500 channel television. But the work on this book was indeed visionary. I love to read Ben Bova sci fi because it is immersive. There may never be a Ben Bova movie, but that does not matter-His books are such that your imagination doesn't have to work hard to draw you into his world. I highly recommend this book. ..it would be great if Mr Bova saw fit to update it a bit and republish it.

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### **Ihijump says**

Warning, spoiler alert!!

I gave the first book four stars. The second and third two stars. The first book flows wonderfully and is a great story. The second and third books have gaping holes in the logic... such as why Jerlet left the children to themselves for fifteen years without checking on them. Additionally, the stories were very predictable... that is until the ending of the trilogy. What What?? Needless to say, I was very disappointed in the final outcome.

However, considering the first book is thirty-plus years old, I would say it is a good, easy read.

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### **Daniel Howard says**

A satisfying scifi romp, I enjoyed these books. No, they didn't always make sense. And there was the sexism rampant in science fiction generally, though clearly no malice was intended. Mostly they were emotionally engaging, well-written "what if" stories. I enjoyed them, and recommend anyone with a slightly pulp-sf sensibility to give them a read too. The Exiles Trilogy is very readable and entertaining, with some interesting ideas to explore.

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