



# Predator: Incursion

*Tim Lebbon*

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## **Predator: Incursion** Tim Lebbon

Predator ships stream into human space in unprecedented numbers. The Colonial Marines, controlled by Weyland-Yutani, respond to the incursion, thus entering the Rage War.

This terrifying assault by the Yautja cannot go unchallenged, yet the cost of combat is high. Predators are master combatants, and each encounter yields a high body count. Then when Lt. Johnny Mains and his marines—the VoidLarks—enter the fray, they discover an enemy deadlier than any could imagine.

Book one in an epic trilogy that continues in ALIEN: INVASION and concludes in ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: ARMAGEDDON. The universe will forever be changed.

## **Predator: Incursion Details**

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Author : Tim Lebbon

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# From Reader Review Predator: Incursion for online ebook

## Matthew says

I went into this book with solid expectations, and I felt like Lebbon delivered. A lot of people have complained about the depiction of the Predators, but I didn't mind it. The action was great, and I am keen to read the next one.

A good late night read.

4 out of 5 stars.

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## David Agranoff says

Tim Lebbon has very distinguished reputation, from solid horror novels, fantasy novels and various tie-in novels in properties ranging from Star Wars to Hell Boy. Lebbon won me over big time last year with the publication of his amazing monster apocalypse novel The Silence. It was my number one novel of the year last year.

So yeah I was really wanting to read more by Lebbon, and was really interested in this trilogy when he talked about writing it on the Three Guys with Beards podcast. You see this trilogy known as the rage war is split between the Alien and Predator universes which we know tie together. This first book is supposed to be a Predator novel that pesky species known as the Yautja is at the center. That said this novel is almost more firmly set in the alien land scape, with it's setting and political intrigue as a back drop.

I have only read one other Predator novel and that was John Shirley's amazing "Forever Midnight" which created a feeling of pulpy Heinlein style Sci-fi action story. I loved that novel because it felt like the best kind of military Science Fiction. So the two best things that separate this tie-in novel are found in it's huge scope and that gives it a epic feel that transcends the franchise and just becomes a really neat sci-fi story that just happens in the AVP trilogy.

Happening 300 years after the events of Alien Ressurrection, I mistakenly read the entire book thinking the main android character Liliya was actually the character played in the film by Winnoa Ryder. I was wrong but I don't think that hurt the novel. This excellently plotted novel hops around the galaxy between inter weaving story lines that come together perfectly setting up an intriguing twist for the second novel. Can't spoil it, but I was hooked enough to plan on reading book 2.

We have an android fresh off 300 years floating in a escape pod, a squad of Colonial Marines and Predator expert who are all full developed characters. With a interesting tie to Prometheus and a more forced clumsy nod to predator 2 fans Lebbon did fan service while building a very interesting cosmic horror back drop.

The story of a cult group of humans who traveled into deep space with intention of finding god. These "Founders" are coming back after hundreds of years and their intentions are not good. It is hilarious to see nerds upset with how easy the Yautja (Predators) are being killed in this novel, but it is important to the plot.

I tried to read this without the baggage of the existing franchise and just read it as a Tim Lebbon science

Fiction war novel. As that it is a really fun book, as a Predator tie-in novel it is a home run. If you ever thought you might read a Predator novel this is a good one to read.

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### **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

The first and last were the best parts. In between was a lot of build-up, the predators don't seem the way I'd picture them, there are so many characters and switches I got confused, a lot of confusing military stuff. It was hard to get through the middle half. I'm curious on the next one because of the way this one ended. Full review to come.

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### **Dean Bremner says**

If you are into the alien and predator world's then go for it! It's worth the read. The chapters are pretty slow and always end with some sort of cliffhanger... only with a new chapter to start with a new character. But the build up is amazing and I can't wait to read the others.

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### **Wayne Farmer says**

Sadly this book suffers from being the first in a trilogy. I'm not sure why its solely called Predator and not Aliens vs Predator from the get-go - its not really a story you'd expect from a Predator novel. The predators don't appear for ages and there isn't much in the way of traditional predator action so if that is what you are looking for you will be disappointed. Most of the book concentrates on the humans and its mainly just setting up the plot of the trilogy - and while the story as a whole looks to be interesting its takes a while to get there and then it ends leaving you waiting for the next one.

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### **Shawna Hunter says**

In space no one can hear you prequel.

There is an awesome, epic war coming. Eventually. I hope.

Until then let's hear how that one guy is a "company man" every time he's mentioned and ride along with aggressively depressing people in impossible to survive situations giving their last breathe to give the slightest scrap of information to other people.

Seriously I can't quite remember anyone's name in this. There's Yautja girl, Robot girl, Doomed soldier guy, weaselly business guy and various other doomed soldier types. They all have some personality but not much. All they really do is serve to set the stage for events rather than help you experience those events.

UNTIL they suddenly morph into emotional power houses for exactly 2 pages...or one whole chapter as you ride along with a little girl dying horribly in a terrorist attack caused by her brainwashed mother (thanks for

the weeping moment jerks).

This story pulls you into the sequel by promising the action and excitement you expect from inhuman space monsters fighting but it's not an easy book to finish because at every moment you are drained of hope, happiness and light. It's like the color pallet of the movies in emotional form. I was actually relieved when someone got killed because it put them out of their misery.

This story, like the movies, isn't scary. It's violent and makes humans feel small and insignificant but, unlike the movie, it misses too many awesome moments. "Get away from her you bitch" or the Predator joke with the xenomorph skull from Alien vs Predator. This sort of story desperately needs those moments of levity otherwise its just bleak and depressing. I'll read on but only because I want an epic battle with humans and Predators (Yautja) back to back beating the enemy hordes. If this trilogy doesn't give me a battle of the bastards John Snow moment, however, I'm going to be very annoyed.

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## **Tina says**

I had a blast reading this and could not put it down. Aliens vs. Predator: Prey will always be my favorite, but this was awesome. There is potential that one of the next two in this trilogy will topple Prey from its pedestal, but we'll see. I love when humans team up with aliens, so we'll see how its handled.

Now, I may have a bias in my enjoyment of this novel. That bias being I fucking love almost\* anything Alien/Predator/Alien vs. Predator and approach all iterations with an open mind. I have read some of the comics. I have a Weyland-Yutani shirt. I dragged my husband to see the new Predator movie in IMAX on opening weekend two weeks ago (yeah, that movie. Sigh. So much potential wasted. It has its moments but like Alien: Covenant, it fell flat in a lot of ways. But this isn't a *movie* review website, so I'll move on). I am a super fan-girl of all three series. I wanted to name my daughter Ellen (but was veto'd when my husband found out why I liked the name, even though Alien is one of his favorite movies).

Ok, I'll admit the book is not perfect. There are too many main characters to give any of them a great deal of depth and there is a lot of info-dumping (by Liliya especially). Marshall and Bennett blended together and there were a couple one-off chapters that seemed forced. But ... was it fun and exciting? Yes! Was there hilarious military banter that provided comic relief? Yes! Was there just enough of the Predators and Aliens to make you want more, but not enough that they got boring? Yes! Was there a badass woman? Yes! Several! (this is important to me because I get bored when a novel is just a sausage fest or there is a token "woman scientist" character. This book is like Starship Troopers (the movie) regarding its gender inclusivity, which I loved). Was there a tiny little love story that was believable and sweet? Yes! Were there LGBTQ and POC characters? Yes! Was it believable (the plot, how people acted, how the Predators were described, etc)! Yep, for the most part! Did I read it in one day? Yes I fucking did.

Eeeeeeeeeee and there are references throughout to the Alien and Predator films that made me fan-girl SO HARD. I'm not even going to take a break. I'm going to jump right into Invasion.

Tim Lebbon, thank you for not bastardizing something I love.

\* AVP-R can rot in hell. Seriously – watch AVP and then AVP-R. The former is a well-crafted movie with interesting characters. It's not a perfect movie (well, to me it is. I love it), but the latter is a cheaply

produced, shock-value centered, B-movie piece of shit. It should never have been created. I've written better fan fiction than that movie. I don't consider AVP-R canon and I threw my DVD away.

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## **Josh says**

Quick review:

I had high hopes for this book. I'm a fan of Aliens and Predator so this sounded like a fun idea. But the constant character interjections and dull constant backstory butt-ins took away from the fun element of the story too much for me. I know that this is a 3-book story, but I don't know if I could take one more book, let alone two more.

That's my quick review. Maybe later I'll come back and get into the positives and negatives a bit more at some future date.

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## **Tarl says**

So let me say off the bat that I am a xenomorph fan, and have a good love of the predators as well. (though not even close to that of our black buggy friends)

This novel was... alright.

The main antagonist in this novel, I have to give it to Lebbon, it's a creative one. It's nice to see it not be the usual xeno vs pred mix up, though it still is in many ways. Instead, we are presented with an antagonist that is wonderfully alien in their mentality, yet also familiar. They are something that could happen to mankind, and have cropped up in more than a few science fiction and comic narratives. But still, Lebbon does a good job with them and with fitting the xenomorphs into things.

But that said, for the most part, this book is not that interesting. Even having finished it, having things set up for the sequel, I just don't really care. The humans have technology which basically turns them into super marines, technology that rivals the preds, and the xenomorphs have been amped up to be more dangerous than they already were. (was that really needed?) In the end, all that happened was tech levels got increased and everything remained the same.

The human element of the story is also not that interesting. The protagonists feel like cardboard cut outs going through the motions. You have the peaceful being fleeing from a warlike race, the marines trapped in an alien environment, the scientist who knows deep down that she can befriend the warrior aliens, and the general who wants to nuke everything.

I am really hoping this series picks up in the second book. But for the first in a trilogy, the book that is supposed to hook you and drive you to purchase the others in the series, it doesn't do a very good job. The writing is solid, and it presents a unique idea in the xeno/pred universe, but other than that, it doesn't do much else. I almost regret buying the other two books in the series... almost.

We will just have to see.

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## Neil says

possibly the dullest book I have ever read. boring characters. almost non existent predators and when they show up are killed off.....just don't get what this is meant to have added to the predator series.

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## John says

Finally, the Alien/Predator novel I've longed for! PREDATOR: INCURSION does more to expand this shared universe than all the other Alien/Predator books I've read combined. I was greatly impressed by what a high-concept, well thought-out novel this is--a novel that every sci-fi fan can appreciate, not just the Alien/Predator diehards. Yes, there's a lot of action, but I applaud Lebbon for using these monsters somewhat sparingly and not bogging down the story in one repetitive action scene after another. Tim Lebbon's vision for this trilogy is more ambitious than anything we've gotten from these books so far, and I can't wait to see where he goes with it.

PREDATOR: INCURSION is Lebbon's follow up to 2014's OUT OF THE SHADOWS, which boasted a tremendous WTF factor in terms of Ripley popping up in an adventure set between the first two ALIEN films. It was a decent enough book, but no doubt Ripley's presence, in addition to the need to make the book consistent with the films, severely limited Lebbon in terms of story options. With PREDATOR: INCURSION, Lebbon seems to have been given free range of this particular sandbox, and such freedom has done wonders for his storytelling.

Perhaps the biggest surprise in this book is how far in the future the story takes place. This decision helps Lebbon keep things fresh while mostly avoiding any contradictions with this universe's previously established mythology. Nods to earlier stories include a couple to PROMETHEUS and one to PREDATOR 2, showing that Lebbon has respect for even the less-popular Alien/Predator entries. The future setting also allows for humanity to have become technologically advanced enough to hold its own in this three-way war. No longer are Predators the only ones who can turn themselves invisible, and acid-resistant body armor does wonders when fighting the Alien hordes. Thanks to technology, each Space Marine is basically Iron Man, except that they can't fly (Because that would be silly). I can understand why some readers might be disappointed with Lebbon's decision to put previously mismatched species like humans and Predators on equal footing (Predators were definitely a lot scarier and more memorable back when they could tear through human soldiers as easily as tissue paper), but to me it felt like the natural next step in this franchise's evolution. It helps that Lebbon did such a great job of making all the futuristic technology believable and explainable, as opposed to making it just seem like magic.

If there's any criticism I have of this book, it's the fact that the characters aren't very interesting. Well-developed, yes; but interesting, no. For the most part, they're the sort of stock characters we've seen a million times before. Even when Lebbon gives them detailed back stories, they're the sort of back stories we'd naturally expect. The Space Marines are tough, brave, and selfless; the scientists are anti-social work-a-holics; and the company men are conniving and ruthless. The one unique thing about Lebbon's characters here is that they are predominately women. Sure, we've been previously introduced to many strong female characters in the Alien/Predator universe; but this is the first time I can recall seeing a Space Marines unit composed of equal parts women and men, resulting in a gender-neutral body count in the wake of an Alien attack.

Ah, progress!

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**William M. says****4 AND 1/2 STARS**

Tim Lebbon's *Out of the Shadows*, the first in the new Alien trilogy was my favorite of the three books (#2 was *Sea of Sorrows* by James A. Moore and #3 was *River of Pain* by Christopher Golden). Lebbon was a great choice to helm this epic war himself, as he has shown talent with his world building skills already. This first book, focusing on the Predator, opened up a lot of new doors for the series and I was surprised at how much we learn of the Predator/Yautja race. The author has really taken the mythology and history of the series and blasted open the doors of future possibilities to the franchise. This was a wonderful read that beautifully balanced science fiction elements, human interactions, suspenseful atmosphere, and brutal violence. While some readers might have wanted more scenes with the Predator, I suspect that they're wishes will come true as the series continues. This is a big recommendation to any fan of Aliens, Predator, horror, or well told science fiction. Highly recommended.

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**Brad says**

Disclaimer: I am a big fan of the "Alien" movie franchise, and have read all the books I can on it. I also quite like 2 out of the 3 predator movies. And the one Alien versus Predator movie I saw was so bad, I fell out of love with both Alien and Predator for years afterwards.

This book is set in the "Alien/Predator" universe which has human kind expanding out as far as they can and the introduction of worm holes and faster than light drives to expand the human sphere. The Predators (the race named as "Yautja" in this novel) live on the fringes. The Aliens (Xenomorphs) live in the deep dark corners of space.

The novel by Tim Lebbon has Predators making incursions into the human sphere of influence. Of course it is assumed to be war, but maybe, the Predators are (not retreating) withdrawing from attacks from the Alien Xenomorphs. The humans have to put aside their xenophobia and work with the Yautja species as allies. And enemy of my enemy is my friend.

This is now the third Tim Lebbon book I have read, and I have decided I like his style of writing, and I am looking forward to the rest of this series.

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**Richard Eyres says**

Not a bad book overall. A little slow in places, and some characters a little bland, but overall a good film franchise book.

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## **Gareth says**

### **Awesome**

I initially thought that this book wouldn't be any good but after reading Tim lebbons previous aliens novel I had to give it a go. This book was brilliant, from the first chapter the story captures you and draws you in. It is a number of different characters millions of miles apart all tangled in the same epic story, which is not just centered around the yautja (predators) but humans, aliens, androids, the lot. This was definitely a book that I couldn't put down and read at every opportunity. I can't wait to get started on the next one!

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