



Tim, Defender of the Earth!

Sam Enthoven

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Tim, Defender of the Earth, is a rock'em, sock'em thriller filled with smoke, spectacle, and big-time adventure. Big Ben will fall! Westminster Abbey will crumble! London will never be the same!

TIM, aka Tyrannosaurus: Improved Model, is the product of a top-secret government military experiment, and he couldn't be more loveable. Sure, he's an enormous monster to most, but at heart he's just a big, awkward, thirteen-yearold who realizes he could be all that stands between the earth and total destruction. (Take that, Godzilla.)

Now TIM must form an unlikely alliance with fifteen-year-olds Chris and Anna in order to save humanity from the greatest threat it has ever known: Anna's father, the brilliant and demented Professor Mallahide, and his growing tide of vicious, all-consuming nanobots. Will TIM prevail and save the British Isles and the world from evil? We'll all have to hold hands, read, and believe—in TIM, Defender of the Earth!

Tim, Defender of the Earth! Details

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From Reader Review Tim, Defender of the Earth! for online ebook

Trevor says

Sam Enthoven has got a big fan of giant-monster movies and this book is his tribute to giant lizards, enormous human-animal hybrids, sea monsters, and creative landscape destruction. This book is fun and doesn't take itself too seriously - apparently, giant monsters have secretly been protecting earth/nature/balance for millions of years. The arrival of humankind has made their jobs much harder. Now throw in a professor hellbent of "freeing" people from their bodies and becoming the next phase of human evolution, well, the protectors need a new hero...plus help from one human in particular.

Rachel W says

At its core, I believe that TIM had some intriguing ideas. I think that had those ideas been better thought out, the story could have improved exponentially.

I, for one, absolutely loved the idea of Dr. Mallahide's nanobots. They were marvelous, and the possibilities were infinite. Personally, I believe that Mallahide was probably right at the beginning. Though the prospect of becoming a swarm of machines or adopting a hive mentality seemed repulsive to many of the humans in the book, I would have lined up for the chance to get that. Think of it, he was offering infinite knowledge, eternal life, limitless riches and pretty much everything else the universe had to offer. I could see how the prospect of becoming machines would terrify the people, but I still think that some of the braver or more adventurous people would at least try. The way Mallahide went with trying to convince the people was obviously flawed, he should have done further testing and showed his newfound body/self to scientists first and have this new post-human lifestyle (if you can really call it life) investigated first, then, if he were to go to the public with his findings, he would have been better received. Still, his rash and foolish behavior with his discovery can be discounted as excitement or willingness to share his newfound creations with the world. The one thing that I found odd about Mallahide (and no, it was not the fact that he tried to turn all of humanity, including him self and his daughter, against their own will into machines) was how fast he went bad. I know that power corrupts, (and maybe when he gave up his human body he lost some of his, I don't know, humanity?) but it was incredibly easy for him to give up his morals and begin to use his abilities for his own rise to power/dictatorship. Earlier, he had been all for 'freeing humanity' and such, but immediately after Anna refused him, he lost it. Suddenly, in his eyes, mankind did not deserve the right to make their own decisions and did not deserve to be free. This was a total reversal of what we had seen earlier from him, which struck me as a little odd. Usually, in stories, it can take much longer for power to get to one's head in the sense that it did to Mallahide. Then again, his daughter did recently abandon him (or so he believed) and that could have dealt a crippling blow to his psyche, which definitely played a role in tipping him over the edge.

When it comes to TIM vs. Mallahide, I really had an incredibly hard time believing that TIM managed to last at all against the doctor. After all, Mallahide essentially broke himself down to the atomic level. He could pretty much become gas. Now even if TIM's scales were strong enough to survive missiles from tanks, punches from Mallahide and what not, there is NO WAY that TIM could have beaten Mallahide. In fact, Mallahide could have easily destroyed him during their first encounter. Even if his scales were made of freaking diamonds, it would simply not matter. TIM, despite being a genetically engineered defender of the earth dinosaur thing, needs to breathe. It is essential for his continued existence. So why didn't Mallahide

simply let himself be inhaled by TIM and attack him from the inside? After all, your lungs are designed to let particles into your body, and it is only logical that Mallahide would exploit this weakness to absorb TIM.

TIM himself is something that I simply could not believe in. How on earth was he even possible? For starters, I have a very hard time trying to picture how exactly a genetically engineered dinosaur would be helpful to the British military. TIM is not exactly a weapon; he's more like something from Jurassic Park. And whose brilliant idea was it to grow a dinosaur in the middle of London? I figured that keeping him somewhere secluded would be a no-brainer, but apparently I was wrong. Then of course, is TIM's improbable sentience. The fact is, humans are the only creatures on this earth that are truly sentient, and the next closest things are monkeys. Reptiles and dinosaurs are pretty long off. TIM also seems to have a bizarre, innate knowledge of our world and its functions. Logically, he would know nothing of the outside world, as he had never been there before and would have a mind akin to that of an infant. Instead, he seems to comprehend everything about our world and planet, which though that can be partially explained by the whole 'defender of the earth' still seems a bit off. Oh, and if he is underwater talking to the kraken (and don't get me started on him), how on earth can he breathe?

The whole 'defender of the earth' thing really annoyed me in the book. Yes, the concept at its subject is cool (albeit somewhat overplayed). TIM and the kraken were just too far fetched for me. First off, how on earth did TIM get chosen as defender of the earth? He is not at all natural; he is a genetic experiment, so how on earth did he get chosen to protect nature? And who chooses the defenders? The kraken claimed it wasn't him who chose TIM, so who did? And how were the defender, Chris and Miss Plimpton even connected? Saying 'it was magic' or something like that seems a little too iffy, because frankly, in the past, nearly everything that was unexplained was considered 'magic' so I'm wondering if there ever was a real explanation, or if Enthoven just didn't bother to come up with an explanation. Same thing with the 'life force of the planet' or whatever Chris was supposed to channel into TIM through the bracelet, it was just too much hocus pocus for my liking. And if it somehow was magic, well, at least give 'evidence' or a plausible reason for why it works.

Overall, TIM could have had some potential, but it was not properly executed. Instead we ended up with what felt like a half-assed, clichéd Godzilla story that my little cousins would write in school, with dinosaurs and magic and no real plotline.

Candy Wood says

I'll read almost anything set in London, but this one is positively anti-historical. Not only do London landmarks appear only to get flattened, but the narrator calls attention to the long history of many of them just so that it can be erased in seconds. Part of the Houses of Parliament dates back to 1097? Oops, smooch. Christopher Wren designed St. Paul's Cathedral? Oops, gone now. We meet the two human teens on a school trip to the British Museum, in which they are not at all interested, and 14-year-old Chris has to wander into an invented basement room to receive his call to join in the defense (a call which he mostly refuses, being 14 and more worried about his own image than about the Earth). Anna, the misfit girl, is more promising, but the only teenaged character who actually does much is Tim (Tyrannosaurus: Improved Model), and what he does is mostly flatten London landmarks in the process of defending the Earth. If you like cardboard characters and secretly wish all those famous places would be obliterated, this is the book for you-- otherwise, give it a miss.

Jeffery Moulton says

I don't like giving up on books. I really don't. I'm usually a stick-through-it kind of person, no matter how bad it is. But I'm making an exception for this one. I have too many better things to do, and this book is really bad.

Okay, I understand it is a Godzilla story (well, not officially, but that's really what it is), so I didn't go in expecting Shakespeare, or even Stephen King. However, this book is really poorly written. It is one cliché after the next, which I guess is to be expected from a Godzilla story, but I really thought there would be more to it than that. The characters are one-note and completely unrealistic, and the writing just doesn't grab me.

But the worst is the dialogue. It is so bad I can almost feel the character's mouths keep moving after they have finished speaking. It made me feel like I was reading a really poorly dubbed, poorly scripted, and poorly acted Godzilla movie.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy Godzilla here and there. But there are just too many better books out there for me to continue with this one.

The two stars are simply because I found the idea fun and because the first chapter was actually kind of interesting (if still very clichéd).

Dan says

The title of this book is brilliant as it is but when you learn TIM stands for Tyrannosaur: Improved Model it's mind-blowing. Scientists have created a T-Rex which has been designed for military applications. In the tough world of government funding that's moved to a Mallahide, a scientist working with nanobots. But when Mallahide turns himself into a nanobot cloud and wants everyone to become like him it's up to Tim to fight him. Oh and two schoolchildren, one of whom is Mallahide's daughter.

This is a mad book but it somehow still works. Despite all the craziness it's almost believable thanks to the way we see what the Prime Minister and the world are doing to tackle it and how the news are reporting it. Enthoven makes no bones about destroying various famous landmarks of London and that makes it feel like a proper disaster movie.

Mallahide makes for a great villain because his intentions aren't all clear. He's not inherently evil yet he is doing terrible things and it's hard to know exactly what to feel for him.

The book is well written and one of the most imaginative I've read in a long time. My only real problem with it is that the build up goes on for far too long. The big battle scenes are relatively short and schoolboy Chris takes a ridiculously long time to accept his responsibility. And the big draw to the novel, Tim, is barely present for most of the first half.

Still, it's a great ride. The imagery it creates of monsters in London is fantastic and despite how silly the premise with it not only works wonderfully but even brings up some important issues about humanity and

the use of technology. You won't read anything else like it.

Ms. Yingling says

This is a book I hadn't heard of until I picked it up in Half Price Books' clearance aisle, and it took me a while to read it. To add to the confusion, it's listed on Titlewave as an adult title. What a shame! Like Cole's Z Rex, this was a fabulous smash-em-up science fiction book!

TIM is a genetically engineered, indestructible tyrannosaur developed by the British government. He's been happy living underneath Trafalgar Square in a lab, until they try to kill him. Chris is a hapless teen who is given a strange bracelet by a guard at the British Museum. Anna is the daughter of Professor Mallahide, who has unleashed his cloud of nanobots of the world and is attempting to absorb every living thing into it. Obviously, this is really bad news for England, especially when all the countries in the world decide that the only way to contain the nanobots is to bomb England into oblivion! Together, TIM, Chris and Anna must find a way to save the world, no matter what the cost.

Strengths: Wow! The dedication page explains a lot: "To Gamera, Godzilla, Kong, and the rest, with love and bellowing." Most of London is laid waste by one force or another, with descriptive explosions, chases, and general mayhem. The London Eye is put to good use, as is Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament are pretty much wiped out. Still, there is a moral: scientific discoveries should be used for good and not for evil.

Weaknesses: It's not explained too clearly why TIM, a government project, becomes a defender of earth, and his conversation with his predecessor, the Kraken, is a little confusing. Surly Teen Boy also devoured this, and said that it felt slightly rushed to him. Not that we cared. I am just sad that Crawlers ("They will do anything for their queen, and soon, so will you!") has not been released in the US. How can I not love an author who claims on the back flap of the book that this is "phase two of my sinister master plan to conquer the universe"? Every day should have an evil master plan! It's one of those phrases that I find my students quoting.

Alexandert says

When reading this book I was somewhat interested into it. IN the beginning of the book you meet TIM. Tim stands for Tyrannosaurus Improved Model. Tim is envolved form of a dinsosaur. The laboratory that Tim is held in is 70 stories below the earth's surface. Tim is a component of a soldier and a dinosaur.Two chapter later you meet Chris Pitman, a young boy who's trying to coast through school and trying to be involved in the cool crownd. You meet Chris Pitman and his class in a museum. Chris later separates from the class group and wanders around the museum. Chris runs into a strange lady, all of a sudden the woman slaps a braclet on to him. After that happens to Chris he meets Anna Mallahide who is the quiet girl in the chlas that no one really know to well. She really like the outcast of the class. Anna Mallahide is the daughter of the Professor Mallahide who is working on nanotechnology.

Josh says

Against my better judgement I'll give the book four stars but academically, three might be more fitting. The book is a bizarre confection of YA literature, B-Movie nostalgia, and serious science fiction and yet despite these disparate elements it works. It won't be the greatest book you'll ever read but if you love giant monster movies as much as myself, the book is a treat to read. You'll have to keep in mind the book is meant for a younger set, so characterization is somewhat lacking, but its short and to-the-point and never gets bogged down in any element long enough for it to outstay its welcome. There are a few plot holes and the conclusion is a bit too abrupt for my liking but overall, I'd say pick it up. It's fun, it wears its influences on its sleeve, and if you like the subject matter you might be surprised with just how much you'll enjoy the book.

Josh says

I wanted to like this book. The concept is fun and cool (a giant tyrannosaurus rex defends the earth from nanobots). But the nanobots did it in for me. Without any sort of science or explanation about how the nanobots worked, they seemed that they should be unstoppable. The way they worked in the book they were frighteningly prolific and devoured everything when they wanted to, but couldn't devour (or didn't want to) the tyrannosaur. I didn't understand why the swarm of nanobots bothered to make themselves into a giant monster for a big slugathon battle.

In short, the science fiction elements played like deus ex machina which worked when convenient and didn't work when not. Sometimes I like that sort of thing (especially when the plot contrivances lead to someplace ridiculously fun). But in this book, I kept falling asleep. It seems like others might really like the book though.

Conan Tigard says

At first, I was disappointed that Tim was so big. After all T-Rex's aren't nearly 300 feet tall. They are about one-tenth that size. But I'll tell you what, I just finished watching the 1998 movie Godzilla, and now I can easily picture Tim being as big as he is. Sam Enthoven is obviously a fan of the old Japanese Godzilla movies, the King Kong films, and more, as am I. I used to watch all of these films on the Family Film Festival on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 PM on KTLA. So, when I heard about this book, I became very excited.

Tim is a pretty cool character and I liked that he wasn't successful in his first battle. It aught him humility. I also thought it was smart to make the Kraken the previous Defender of the Earth. After all, who could ever beat the Kraken? Not Sinbad. Not Perseus. As for Professor Mallahide, he is not really a bad guy. He sincerely wants to help mankind. After all, if we were all composed of nanomachines, there would never be any disease or death. We could all do just about anything we wanted.

But the question comes to mind as to whether we would truly be human anymore. And to tell the truth, I think that the nanomachines warped him somehow. Chris is a great lead character as he has a hard time believing that he is important . . . to anybody. Anna is there to support him, but also has to fend off her father

who doesn't understand when she doesn't want to be turned into nanomachines like he is.

Tim is a awesome character that all readers will thoroughly enjoy. I totally fell into this book and couldn't put it down. I read it in two days and absolutely loved it. I highly recommend TIM: Defender of the Earth for any reader of action to all age groups, not just young readers.

Sam Enthoven is proving why his is a much desired author as he has written two excellent books now, the other being The Black Tattoo. I cannot wait to see what Mr. Enthoven writes next. All I know for sure is that I don't want to miss it. Wow!

I rated this book a 9½ out of 10.

Karin says

What secrets does your government keep from you? Nanotechnology? Genetic engineering? In TIM: Defender of the Earth, this and much more is going on.

Anna Mallahide is the daughter of scientist that works for the government. She is used to being the new girl at school because her father's work requires that they move quite frequently. Chris is a guy who cares more about what people think than about doing what is right. He wants to be cool, but feels like he really has to work at it. When Anna and Chris get paired up on a field trip at the Museum their lives become intertwined in a ways they can't even imagine.

While wandering around the Museum, Chris runs into a woman who has been in charge of guarding a bracelet meant for a person that will be the channel for all the life force on the planet. By the way the bracelet reacts when Chris is near, Mrs. Plimpton determines that Chris is the person she has been waiting for. It will be up to Chris to funnel all of the world's life energy to the Defender because danger is coming and the earth is in trouble. The Defender has been called into action and he can only win if Chris cooperates.

TIM (Tyrannosaurus: Improved Model), is the Defender. It is up to him and Chris to save the world from Professor Mallahide, Anna's father, who has developed nanobots that devours everything in its path in order to "improve" the way of life. While Professor Mallahide's intentions are true in the beginning, power soon changes the outlook on his mission and he becomes the most dangerous and unstoppable enemy the world has ever known.

With battle scenes like the old King Kong vs. Godzilla movies, TIM provides heartstopping action and an incredibly entertaining storyline. The lesson of selflessness and friendship run throughout the story and make it clear that sometimes you have to think of others in order to have a life worth living.

Nate Zabinski says

Before I can get to my (surprisingly conflicted) opinion of Tim, Defender of Earth! by Sam Enthoven, I need to tell you about the author's first book, The Black Tattoo.

I won't go into much detail about *The Black Tattoo's* storyline, but it's personally my favorite book in all of the history of literature. The characters were lovable, the plot was engaging, and the setting was one of the most spectacular fantasy worlds in any media I've ever seen. So, when I saw the author's name on *Tim, Defender of the Earth!*, I was very excited.

The premise of *Tim* (if you skipped the summary of it on the top of the page) is that the British military has spent thirteen years and countless funds growing something called T.I.M: Tyrannosaurus, Improved Model. It's exactly what you think it is. T.I.M. (spelled 'Tim' in the book) is a modern-day t-rex with twenty times the size of his prehistoric predecessor. He also is written as sympathetic, having never been outside of the underground laboratory he was raised in. But when the British government tries to terminate the project because raising Tim is eating up too much tax money, Tim escapes from his cage and rampages through London.

As big as Tim is, he's only half the focus of the story. The other half goes to our antagonist, Dr. Mallahide. Mallahide is an inventor in the field of nanotechnology, and he recently made a breakthrough in designing the most potent nanobots ever created. Basically, they're so small, that they can alter the atomic structure of any mass they find, generating unlimited uses and possibilities. Mallahide then somehow merges with his swarm of nanobots into some sort of hive mind, sacrificing his body in the process. He then thinks he is now the next step of mankind, and that all of humanity should become like him.

There are two other main characters in the book: A couple of ordinary teenagers named Chris and Anna. Chris is a vaguely-explained 'chosen one,' destined by a prophecy to help Tim save the planet. Anna is Dr. Mallahide's daughter, and goes to the same highschool as Chris. Other than that, the only purpose they fill is to appeal to the teen demographic.

Like I said, I love Sam Ethoven's style, but I can't help but think that he put all his focus and effort into Tim and Mallahide. They seemed to be the only characters that were fleshed out enough for me to be attached to. Chris and Anna are fine characters, but they just seem like added-on attachments to Tim and Mallahide. There are other recurring characters throughout the story, but they never left a big enough impression on me to remember their names. I can't resist to speculate that Sam Ethoven just wanted to write a story about a giant dinosaur and a scientist-nanobot monster, then see them fight.

Don't get me wrong, the focus on Tim and Mallahide pays off. You really see the world from two different perspectives. Both Tim's simplistic views about his surroundings and Mallahide's extremist ideals about the future of mankind are equally captivating.

Oh, and there's more action in it than a Michael Bay movie.

Yes, there's A LOT of fighting going on in this book. Explosions, armageddon, and lots of British soldiers being slaughtered can be read from these pages. The action was pretty amusing, from my viewpoint. It did its job of setting a picture in my mind of what was going on. Like the summary promises, landmarks that can be found in London are brutally crushed beyond repair, especially in scenes that feature Tim.

When all's said and done, I say the book was a good use of my time. Go check it out, especially if you like a good villain and big fight scenes.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jaglvr for TeensReadToo.com

On a school trip to the British Museum, Chris wanders off alone and discovers a private room in the basement. A strange woman appears and shows him a special display case. The object in the case starts to cast a strange glow around the room. The lady opens the case and places the object, a bracelet, on Chris's wrist. It clamps shut and Chris is unable to remove it. With the cryptic words "You've been chosen" uttered to Chris, he is sent back upstairs to join his class and try to figure out what it means.

Seventy stories below the center of London, a strange creature has been created and slated to be destroyed. With voices inside the creature's head, it starts to fight and break its way to the surface and to freedom.

And in another secret location in the city, a brilliant scientist is given the funding from the British Government to proceed with his illegal experiments that will break the Nanotech Non-Proliferation Treaty. Little does the British Government know that the scientist has a secret agenda of his own.

The city of London is under siege by a swarm of nanobots controlled by Professor Mallahide. The hopes and future of the city, and ultimately the world, rest with a boy and a mysterious creature named TIM (Tyrannosaurs: Improved Model). With the help of Ms. Plimpton from the museum, and Anna, a schoolmate and the daughter of Professor Mallahide, Chris and TIM stand a chance of fighting the swarm and the Professor.

I have to admit that I offered to review this book because my son is a dinosaur fanatic. The concept sounded interesting enough on its own merits, so I gave it a go. Well, I was hooked from the first page! For fans of Michael Crichton, TIM, DEFENDER OF EARTH will not disappoint. The action is fast, the science fantastic, and the mounting tension almost too much to bear. I wanted to get to the end to find out if Chris and TIM can save London. Except for the technical, scientific jargon, the book is appropriate for all ages. I can easily picture this being made into a motion picture with the stunning special effects that the swarm would create, as well as the larger-than-life descriptions given to TIM.

I give this book a Gold Star as it's one that I will definitely be recommending to others.

Abby says

This is fun in a very Godzilla meets Mothra kind of way. Crazy Professor Mallahide and his swarm of insatiable nanobots are threatening London. The only thing that could possibly stop them from destroying the city -- and the entire world -- are three teenagers: Anna (Mallahide's daughter), Chris, and TIM (that's Tyrannosaur Improved Model). Yes, TIM is a genetically engineered dinosaur created as a top secret science project by the British government who has recently fled his captors only to find that he has a higher calling -- he is Guardian of the Universe. But he can't do it alone -- in order to succeed, he needs back-up, in the unlikely form of Chris, a teenager who is much more concerned with his popularity status than saving the world. Needless to say, Chris isn't the most likeable character; indeed, I found myself thoroughly annoyed with him well up until the final pages of the book -- but some teenagers may relate to his struggles. I loved TIM though -- and the showdown between TIM and Mallahide is totally fun and cinematic. There's even a full-color centerfold of their epic face-off in the middle of the book! I could see this one being a hit with

younger teen boys for sure.

Roma Townsend says

Excellent

Great book lots of action a must read. Good for anyone who likes dinosaurs and robots very good interesting book.?
