



Enormity

Nick Milligan

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Jack is the most famous rockstar in the world... he's just not from this planet.

Before joining NASA's space programme, Jack had dreams of a career as a professional musician. When a deep space mission goes awry, he crashes on an alien planet. Jack discovers that his new world is inhabited by a race of humans that have evolved in parallel to those on Earth. He picks up a guitar and performs the most wondrous rock songs of his home planet. Neil Young. Leonard Cohen. Bob Dylan. Superstardom beckons as audiences around the globe revere Jack and his apparent songwriting abilities. He basks in the boundless glow of a hedonistic dream world. But Jack soon learns that his lie will have sinister consequences.

This remarkable debut novel, released in three parts by renowned Australian entertainment journalist Nick Milligan, is a thrilling ride through a nightmarish, darkly comical and highly original tale that combines elements of horror, science fiction, music industry satire and erotica.

Enormity will weave a dark magic over you – even beyond its shocking conclusion.

Enormity Details

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Author : Nick Milligan

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From Reader Review Enormity for online ebook

Bob Cooper says

Just finished reading Nick Milligan's Enormity. Excellent plot. Nick has a way with dialog that really appeals to me. I'm looking forward to his next book.

Samuel Rayfield says

Milligan's writing has that weird undercurrent attention to detail, one that could easily forgo plot and describe simply, exactly and satirically, a place readers would be content to keep exploring. And as one explores, threads of plot spin from myriad directions – horror, romance, sci-fi – genres abound – and hint at a narrative direction, so as hints drop, the weight of the world becomes greater and Jack (protagonist), speaking initially entirely as someone disconnected from any meaning in this new world of his (which ultimately does become his), reconnects with something human: the capacity to care.

Paul says

I did completely enjoy this book. I like the concept and the execution but the idea wasn't big enough for this kind a story

Angela says

Rock stars are apparently all the same no matter what planet they're on, but still not enough to interest me past the first drug-fueled orgy.

Charl says

Very much not my thing. I'm not into the drugs/rock'n'roll/groupies thing in real life, so it doesn't interest me in a book.

But if you are into that, at least reading that kind of fiction, give it a shot. The premise is interesting. Just not interesting enough to keep me engaged.

Moving on . . .

Aaron Dries says

All I can say is: home run, Mister Milligan, home run. ENORMITY is genuinely hilarious, often scary, bizarre, consistently moving, sexy as hell, and packs one hell of a soundtrack. A unique combination of Bret Easton Ellis and Rolling Stones' most brutal exposés, ENORMITY just goes from strength to strength in its disturbing reach for the stars. And it's so aptly titled, too... Yes, it's enormous in scope, and yet somehow manages to capture the enormity of intimacy - the intimacy of a kiss, the intimacy of deceit. And the consequences of both. For those who like fiction drawn outside the box, this genre-bending read is highly recommended.

Amanda says

This was an interesting read that kept me moderately entertained, although it wasn't the rollicking good time I was initially expecting.

The book jumps right in to Jack as already a rock star on Heaven (the alien planet) and tells of his arrival and how he became famous through a series of flashbacks. This nonlinear storytelling works well with the plot. Starting with semi-familiar rock star territory, the book slowly reveals what is different about this planet, as well as about Jack.

It is evident that this was originally a three part series, as the plot consists of three distinct parts that, while connected, keep the book from having an overarching gradual build-up of suspense. Jack has three distinct episodes of action, and that lends the book an up and down quality that feels a bit odd in one novel. I actually think I might have enjoyed the book more if it was kept as a trilogy with each part's plot fleshed out a bit and the overarching conflict made more evident. An overarching conflict does exist, but it is so subtle that the opportunity to build suspense is mostly missed.

Personally, Jack didn't work for me as a main character. While I don't mind viewing the world through a bad guy's eyes, I usually enjoy that most when I get a lot of depth and insight into who that person is. Jack holds everyone, including the reader, at arm's length, so I both saw the world through his objectifying eyes and couldn't really get to know him at all. That said, I can definitely see some readers enjoying Jack and his viewpoint. He lends the unique ability to let people see the world both through a rock star's eyes and through an astronaut's. A reader who is into both famous people's biographies/autobiographies and scifi would probably really enjoy him.

Similarly, the humor in the book just didn't strike my funny bone. I could recognize when it's supposed to be humorous, but I wasn't actually amused. I know other people would find it funny, though. Readers expecting a Douglas Adams style humor would be disappointed. Those who enjoy something like Knocked Up would most likely appreciate and enjoy the humor.

There are certain passages that sometimes struck me as a sour note among the rest of the writing. Perhaps these are passages that would be humorous to other readers, but to me just felt odd and out of place in the rest of the writing. Most of the writing at the sentence level worked for me. It was just the right tone for the story it was telling. But periodically there are passages that made me gnash my teeth. Again, perhaps this is humor that just didn't work for me. I'm not certain. If you like the concept of the rest of the book, there are only a few of these passages that are easy to pass over. If you enjoy them and find them humorous, then you will most likely enjoy the book as a whole as well.

Overall, this is a piece of scifi with the interesting idea of turning an Earth astronaut into a rock star on

another parallel planet. Potential readers should be aware that the book was originally told in three parts, and that is evident in the book. They should also be aware that the main character is both a self-centered rock star and a self-centered astronaut, while this viewpoint may work for some, it will not work for others. Recommended to those who enjoy both celebrity autobiographies/biographies and scifi who can overlook some bizarro coincidences.

Check out my full review, featuring quotes!

Note: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Steve Tannuzzo says

I loved the premise of *Enormity* and I'm happy to say it delivered on its promise. It's a little funny, a little dirty, a little scary and a little weird — just the way I like my books! Looking forward to more from this author.

Lee Anderson says

I'll begin by saying that I've never read anything like this book before nor have I heard of anything remotely similar.

Jack is an interesting character to say the least. A typical rock star hooked on sex, drugs, and rock n roll. The image I had created in my head was a Michael Hutchinson, loved to party, was smooth with the ladies, sexy as hell and a voice to match.

In the beginning we know very little about Jack's past so I wasn't particularly fond of him as a character but as the story evolved and there are flashbacks into Jack's past and how he came to be, his vulnerability started to show.

Astronaut turned musician? Jack is making the best of A bad situation, what could have been a fatal one at that.

That is a story in itself. But Nick took it next level, there was a sudden change from sci-fi to something much darker and I never saw it coming.

The one thing I would have liked is a little more back story and personal history on Jack earlier on in the book. His neighbor, Mr Roeg, is an ingenious character, so well written.

As a fan of dark fiction I found this book intriguing from the very beginning but mind boggling by the end. Highly recommended.

Bandit says

What an apt title, this book was in fact enormous. Possibly the longest one I've read digitally thus far.

Digitally is probably the best way to read a book this size, unless you're strengthening your arms/wrists. Because it was so long, it was sort of a mixed reading experience. It failed to impress me from the start, meaning the concept was great, but the execution was too Bret Easton Ellis for me, hedonistic, constantly high, oversexed and overexposed, playing music and partying all day and night. There was only so much of that one can take or be interested in. And Milligan must have sensed it, because as the novel progressed he introduced more and more nuances, plot twists, revelations and such, which was easy because the bones of it were already there (if you haven't read the summary, it's about a man who travels to a different planet and becomes the lead of their most famous band, because despite all the planet's similarities to Earth, they haven't heard any of our music). It became very interesting, it became difficult to put down. It's just such a great concept and Milligan's done a terrific job here, mixing genres so much that you can't really tell if it's sci-fi or drama or mystery or action, there is so much going on and the writing is consistently good. My favorite parts of the book had to do with Jack's assimilation, I found the differences and similarities between the planets to be incredibly clever and fascinating. In general I prefer shorter books, but this was well worth the read. Very entertaining, very fun. Highly recommended.

Patricia Eddy says

What would you do if you landed on an alien planet to discover a race of humans who have evolved in parallel to our world. Back home, he was a music fan and so when he sings some of the songs he grew up with (Leonard Cohen, Neil Young, and more), he's revered as a musical genius.

He becomes a rock star along with all of the stereotypical negatives (and positives) that come along with it: sex, drugs, and fame. I enjoyed the book from the first page, but I admit that the first few chapters were less than inspiring. I wasn't a huge fan of Jack. He spent a lot of the time high, coming down from being high, or working on getting high. It was clear he didn't have a lot of respect for the women he screwed and there were a good number of women. But don't let the shockingly bad behavior turn you away from this book. Before too long, you realize there's a lot more to this story than sex, drugs, and rock and roll.

Elements of science fiction, thriller, and a decent amount of steamy sex mean there's something for a wide variety of readers here. I enjoyed Jack's personality-all aspects of it. He starts out this shallow piece of...well...something not great, but as the story progresses, we learn a lot more about him and some of the reasons for his decisions and his actions.

The book is very well edited with snappy dialog and good descriptions. I found it easy to picture the action as it unfolded. Be warned that this is a very long book: over 500 pages. But after about the first 30 pages, it's very hard to put down. Despite the length, it's a relatively quick read because it draws you in and holds you. I wish I could say more about the story without giving the plot away, but there's simply too much detail, too many twists, and too many surprises to enumerate. Well worth the time. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Kate says

I read all kinds of things & am neither naive nor prudish but if there's no plot other than drugs & random sex

for most of the first chapter, I'm giving up. I can read People magazine for that.

Luke says

AN AMAZEBALLS BOOK!

Okay, so when Nick liked a picture of mine on Instagram I was interested to see who he was... I had a look at his profile and he said that there was a giveaway, to which I had just missed out... I commented this on the photo and he promptly replied giving me a link to a free copy of his entire book (Part 1, 2 and 3!) When I finished the book I wanted more but unfortunately there is no more, or as Nick tells me you never know there could be another one...

Anyway that's all, have a good day and all that...

Sally Mackaway says

Milligan's debut novel, *Enormity*, is what *Vanilla Sky* could have been if it had, well, any substance. Milligan, journalist/trivia-ring-master by day, successfully transcends time to produce a storyline so polished and involved that it's difficult to grasp that this is his first. The strength in his work is his ability to create relatable characters in un-relatable scenarios. *Enormity* is sexy, original and at times, thought provoking. And heck, any reference to Paul Kelly in a futuristic world gets my vote. Ten out of ten.

Kelly Smith Reviews says

Jack is the most famous rock star in the world... he's just not from this planet.

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Some of you know that I love music. I grew up in a house filled with music of all genres, but especially classic rock. So, for me, reading *Enormity* was a wonderful experience. Science fiction, a little bit of erotica and a huge dousing of mystique make for the most unique novel I've read in a while!

Mr. Milligan was a music journalist, which gives this book the authenticity it needed, because he knew the stars, experienced the stories and has an appreciation for great music! No one else could have written this book or a story like it as well as he did.

The characters run from typical to "what the fuck", and each of them plays a critical role in the novel. As the story unfolds, the readers are brought into a strange new world of sex, drugs and rock and roll!

5/5--great work!
