

## Star Wars The Approaching Storm

Collects the first three books in the Star Wars series, offering a glimpse of how Anakin Skywalker became aware of his power and turned to the dark side.

Accompanied by his faithful minidrag Pip and a most troublesome alien called Abalamahalamatandra -- Ab for short -- Flinx set out for Alaspin, the ruggedly primitive homeworld of his flying snake. There he hoped to find the giant man with the gold earring who somehow held the key to Flinx's mysterious past and to the strange powers he possessed. Chasing down his heritage was trouble enough, but Flinx didn't know what real trouble was until he realized that the Qwarm -- a deadly assassin squad -- were three steps behind him with a contract to kill. But the minidrag's homeworld did not offer safety and Flinx had a terrible time just staying alive ... a matter complicated to no mean degree by a collapsar already set on an unstoppable death course across the galaxy!

From science fiction icon Alan Dean Foster comes a blazing Pip & Flinx adventure for fans of the green-eyed redhead with awesome mental powers and his miniature flying dragon. In this dazzling novel, Flinx confirms his status as the galaxy's greatest magnet for big trouble. Wandering out there in some remote region of the galaxy is a gargantuan sentient Tar-Aiym weapons' system. All Flinx has to do—while his pals look after his injured love Clarity Held—is find the hefty object and persuade it to knock out the monstrous evil that is hurtling through space to waste the entire Commonwealth. A no-brainer, really, especially for Flinx, who is never without his loyal entourage of official snoops, crazed zealots, assorted goons, and the occasional assassin. Indeed, the boy wonder and his mini-drag, Pip, are eager to commence their heroic task . . . just as soon as Flinx visits Visaria—a dangerously depraved planet—to convince himself that humans are indeed worth saving. The chances of stumbling across high moral values and utopian ideals don't look promising—what with Flinx playing a lawless Pied Piper to a gang of lying, thieving juvenile delinquents. But prospects really go south when Flinx runs afoul of the corrupt planet's ruthless crime king. Still, life is full of surprises, and Flinx is about to get smacked by a passel of them—by turns devastating, heartening, and positively jaw-dropping. For although Flinx came to Visaria to plumb the enigma of humankind, there's another mystery waiting here, a shocking clue about his own shadowy past.

Exiled to Tatooine, Obi-Wan Kenobi works to hide his Jedi powers and establish an alternate identity for himself as an eccentric hermit while protecting an infant Luke Skywalker and aiding the residents of Tatooine.

Set in a future world where physical alterations and enhancements are part of everyday life, Ingrid Seastrom and Whispr are hunted by a killer, as they try to enter a research lab to discover the secret about the data-storage thread that binds them together.

As Civil War between the Republic and the Separatists rages across the galaxy, nowhere is the fighting more fierce than on the swamp world of Drongar, where a beleaguered mobile hospital unit wages a never-ending war of its own . . . A surgeon who covers his despair with wise-cracks; another who faces death and misery head-on, venting his emotions through beautiful music . . . A nurse with her heart in her work and her eye on a doctor . . . A Jedi Padawan on a healing mission without her Master . . . These are the core members of a tiny med unit serving the jungle world of Drongar, where battle is waged over the control of a priceless native plant, and an endless line of medlifters brings in the wounded and dying—mostly clone troopers, but also soldiers of all species. While the healers work desperately to save lives, others plot secretly to profit from the war—either by dealing on the black market or by manipulating the events of the war itself. In the end, though, all will face individual tests, and only those of compassionate hearts and staunch spirits can hope to survive to fight another day. Features a bonus section following the novel that includes a primer on the Star Wars expanded universe, and over half a dozen excerpts from some of the most popular Star Wars books of the last thirty years!

Gathers thirteen Star Wars stories by Timothy Zahn, Kathy Tyers, Patricia A. Jackson, Michael A. Stackpole, Laurie Burns, Charlene Newcomb, Tony Russo, Angela Phillips, and Erin Endom

In the years since the events of Star Wars: The Phantom Menace, the Republic has continued to crumble, and the Jedi are needed to help the galactic government maintain order. As Star Wars: Episode II opens, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker have just returned from a mission on a world called Anison. This work tells the story of that mission.

The last known human searches the galaxy for companionship in a brilliant standalone novel from the legendary author of the Pip & Flinx series. "A provocative read."—The Washington Post Once Homo sapiens reigned supreme, spreading from star system to star system in an empire that encountered no alien life and thus knew no enemy . . . save itself. As had happened many times before, the basest, most primal human instincts rose up, only this time armed with the advanced scientific knowledge to create a genetically engineered smart virus that quickly wiped out humanity to the last man. That man is Ruslan, the sole known surviving human being in the universe. Rescued from the charnel house of his home planet by the Myssari—an intelligent alien race—Ruslan spends his days as something of a cross between a research subject and a zoo attraction. Though the Myssari are determined to resurrect the human race, using Ruslan's genetic material, all he wants for himself and his species is oblivion. But then the Myssari make Ruslan an extraordinary offer: In exchange for his cooperation, they will do everything in their considerable power to find the lost home world of his species—an all-but-mythical place called Earth—and, perhaps, another living human. Thus begins an epic journey of adventure, danger, heartbreak, and hope, as Ruslan sets out in search of a place that may no longer exist—drawn by the slimmest yet most enduring hope. Praise for Relic "Relic is a thrilling and thoughtful epic. With Alan Dean Foster's trademark invention in both the psychology and physiology of his aliens, he also enriches the narrative with their complex cultures. The plot spans galaxies!"—Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author Greg Bear "The stunning plot of Foster's stand-alone novel will intrigue readers for not only the 'last man in the universe' trope but also the well-developed alien species. A true first contact novel on many different levels."—Library Journal "Foster's sympathetic novel successfully surveys human frailty, the tendency not to learn from history, and an enduring capacity for adaptation and emotional attachment."—Publishers Weekly "Foster's high-concept novel is a gripping tale of serenity amid sorrow."—World Magazine

In nearly two dozen novels about the Humanx Commonwealth, Alan Dean Foster has fascinated readers with his brilliantly imagined interstellar realm—where humans, thranx, AAnn, and other species strive to work together to put the common good above selfish ends. But renewed efforts at cooperation prove that familiarity breeds contempt. Diuturnity's Dawn is the third thrilling novel in The Founding of the Commonwealth, a spectacular space adventure that traces the perilous early years of this remarkable universe. From the beginning, while sharing the Orion Arm of the galaxy, contact between humankind and the thranx has been tenuous at best. Yet nearly a century after first contact, the likelihood of closer human/thranx relations is as far away as ever. Humans still find these insectlike beings physically repulsive, a distaste the thranx return in kind. At times the cordial veneer barely conceals the suspicion and distrust boiling just below the surface. Yet idealists on both sides refuse to surrender their dreams of achieving a thranx/human alliance. Among the most dedicated are a minor diplomat named Fanielle Anjou and her thranx counterpart. Others intend to make sure such a liaison never comes to pass . . . by any means necessary. For these xenophobes, the upcoming Humanx Inter-Cultural Fair, the first wholly cross-species event, is a hideous confirmation of their worst fears.

Zealots on both sides vow it will be the last of its kind, no matter how many must die. In the coming conflagration Fanielle holds the key to triumph but only if she can outwit those desperate to silence her forever. Meanwhile, on a faraway planet, the duplicitous AAnn watch intently as archaeologists labor to discover what happened to an advanced human race that perished thousands of years ago. For the answers contain grave consequences for human, thrax, and AAnn alike . . .

As is evident in his many thrilling novels, Alan Dean Foster is a master at creating other worlds in an array of genres. Now he turns his imagination to the short story in these spectacular tales of outer space, cyberspace, ancient gods, modern demons, and mortal horror, including Panhandler A predatory lawyer encounters a fabled boyhood hero and falls victim to the less innocent intrigues of eternal youth. Growth Not even his minidrag Pip can save Flinx from the overly intimate advances of an intruder who goes entirely too far. Basted A lowly, hen-pecked Egyptian discovers that the Pharaoh's tomb holds exactly what he needs for a whole new life. The Killing of Bad Bull A man with a knack for getting gambling's one-armed bandits to give it up finds himself at the top—of several hit lists. At Sea A poor Scandinavian captain forced into running drugs is shown a way out of his desperate straits with the help of five beautiful blondes who are simply out-of-this-world. Open Exceptions to Reality to find these amazing stories and nine other irresistibly unearthly tales!

Before the onset of the Clone Wars, a group of explorers consisting of six Jedi Masters, twelve Jedi Knights, and a fifty-thousand-member crew set out on a mission to search for intelligent life outside the known galaxy.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The official novelization of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, the blockbuster film directed by J. J. Abrams • Includes two tie-in short stories: "The Perfect Weapon" by Delilah S. Dawson and "Bait" by Alan Dean Foster

More than thirty years ago, Star Wars burst onto the big screen and became a cultural phenomenon. Now the next adventures in this blockbuster saga are poised to captivate old and new fans alike—beginning with the highly anticipated Star Wars: The Force Awakens. And alongside the cinematic debut comes the thrilling novel adaptation by New York Times bestselling science fiction master Alan Dean Foster. Set years after Return of the Jedi, this stunning new action-packed adventure rockets us back into the world of Princess Leia, Han Solo, Chewbacca, C-3PO, R2-D2, and Luke Skywalker, while introducing a host of exciting new characters. Darth Vader may have been redeemed and the Emperor vanquished, but peace can be fleeting, and evil does not easily relent. Yet the simple belief in good can still empower ordinary individuals to rise and meet the greatest challenges. So return to that galaxy far, far away, and prepare yourself for what happens when the Force awakens. . . . Praise for Star Wars: The Force Awakens "Like all the best novelizations, Alan Dean Foster's adaptation of Star Wars: The Force Awakens enriches the movie experience. The novel goes beyond simply giving us insight into the characters' thoughts, with plenty of additional scenes painting a broader picture of the galaxy."—New York Daily News "Fast-moving, atmospheric and raises goose-bumps at just the right moments. [Foster] not only evokes entire onscreen worlds . . . he also gives us glimpses of an even more vast, unseen universe."—The Washington Post "Was my experience of the film enriched by the book? Yes. No question. Is the novelization worth reading? Yes. . . . Foster has written a book that captures the spirit of the film, while presenting additional information that helps answer some of the questions that linger."—Coffee with Kenobi

Sent to aid a local dictator facing a revolution, Hallena Devis finds herself in danger as she is surrounded by belligerent freedom fighters at the same time Captain Gilad Pellaeon is facing a decision whether to rescue Hallena or stay true to the Republic

The fascinating story of how the three most influential American progressives of the early twentieth century split over America's response to World War I. In the early years of the twentieth century, the most famous Americans on the national stage were Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Jane Addams: two presidents and a social worker. Each took a different path to prominence, yet the three progressives believed the United States must assume a more dynamic role in confronting the growing domestic and international problems of an exciting new age. Following the outset of World War I in 1914, the views of these three titans splintered as they could not agree on how America should respond to what soon proved to be an unprecedented global catastrophe. The Approaching Storm is the story of three extraordinary leaders and how they debated, quarreled, and split over the role the United States should play in the world. By turns a colorful triptych of three American icons who changed history and the engrossing story of the roots of World War I, The Approaching Storm is a surprising and important story of how and why the United States emerged onto the world stage.

The Clone Wars have exploded across the galaxy as Republic forces and Separatists struggle to gain the upper hand. But while the Jedi generals work tirelessly to defeat Count Dooku and his rebels, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine is hatching his own dark victory plans. The Separatists have launched a sneak attack on Coruscant. Obi-Wan Kenobi, wounded in battle, insists that Anakin Skywalker and his rookie Padawan Ahsoka leave on a risky mission against General Grievous. But when Senator Bail Organa reveals some explosive intelligence that could turn the tide of war in the Republic's favor, the Jedi Master agrees to accompany him to an obscure planet on the Outer Rim to verify the facts. What Obi-Wan and Bail don't realize is that they're walking into a deadly trap concocted by Palpatine. And by the time they find out, escape may not be an option. Inspired by the full-length animated feature film Star Wars: The Clone Wars and the brand-new TV series, these thrilling adventures are filled with provocative, never-before-revealed insights into the characters of Obi-Wan, Anakin, Padme, Yoda, Count Dooku, and many other Star Wars favourites.

Nineteen-year-old Anakin Skywalker is torn between his personal dreams and his Jedi responsibilities, while he and his master, Obi-Wan Kenobi, face a world of danger and intrigue that threatens to destroy the Republic.

Jedi Knight Jax Pavan continues to search for the truth about his father's death and the mystery of his own past, a quest that leads him into a plot to kill Emperor Palpatine and to the ultimate confrontation with Darth Vader.

The heroes of the High Republic era return to face a shattered peace and a fearsome foe, following the dramatic events of Light of the Jedi. In the wake of the Great Hyperspace Disaster and the heroism of the Jedi, the Republic continues to grow, bringing more worlds together under a single unified banner. Under the leadership of Chancellor Lina Soh, the spirit of unity extends throughout the galaxy, with the Jedi and the newly established Starlight Beacon station at the vanguard. In celebration, the chancellor plans The Republic Fair, a showcase of the possibilities and the peace of the expanding Republic—a peace the Jedi hope to foster. Stellan Gios, Bell Zettifar, Elzar Mann, and others join the event as ambassadors of harmony. But as the eyes of the galaxy turn toward the Fair, so too does the fury of the Nihil. Their leader, Marchion Ro, is intent on destroying this unity. His storm descends on the pageantry and celebration, sowing chaos and exacting revenge. As the Jedi struggle to curb the carnage of the rampaging Nihil, they come face-to-face with

the true fear their enemy plans to unleash across the galaxy—the kind of fear from which even the Force cannot shield them.

Homicide - or cosmic catastrophe? Detective Vernon Moody is a modern cop who likes to catch killers the modern way - with computer webs, databases and common sense. So he's not happy when his latest case revolves around the supposedly mystical properties of a lost Navaho sandpainting. Or when the painting leads him to suspect an alien presence in his modern world. No Moody's getting scared and what started out as a routine murder investigation may uncover the very nature of reality - or destroy it forever!

A Jedi adventure that is a direct prequel to the upcoming movie, *Star Wars: Episode II*. Based on an idea by George Lucas, featuring a never-before-seen character from the new movie, and written by *Star Wars* veteran Alan Dean Foster. At the start of the upcoming *Star Wars* movie, *Episode II*, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker are fresh off a mission on another world. This is the story of that mission. Obi-Wan and his Padawan, Anakin, are dispatched to the world of Ansion to deal with border disputes, as the Supreme Chancellor struggles desperately to hold his dying Republic together.

Obi-Wan and his Padawan, Anakin, embark on a dangerous mission to the planet of Ansion to stop raging border disputes.

Jax Pavan is one of the few Jedi Knights who survived the slaughter of Order 66. Now he ekes out a living as a private investigator in the bowels of Coruscant, trying to help people in need while avoiding revealing himself as a Jedi to those who are still ready to kill any Jedi who remain alive.

Unlikely duo Pip and Flinx return to right another wrong in this all-new sci-fi adventure from one of the genre's living legends. Fans of fun, fast-paced, imaginative science fiction adventure, rejoice! #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Alan Dean Foster returns to his much-loved Commonwealth series with a new novel starring the indefatigable Flinx and his venomous minidrag, Pip. Facing danger and doing good is their business . . . provided the price is right. The unexpected return of an old friend draws Flinx and Pip to the backward planet of Largess, whose seal-like denizens' primitive technology and fractious clan politics have kept a wary Commonwealth from a profitable trade relationship. But now a rogue human employing forbidden advanced weaponry threatens to ignite a war among the Larians. And Flinx is just the man to stop it before it starts. But once on Largess, Flinx discovers that his empathic abilities—usually his greatest asset—are rendered useless by the natives' unique language, which is sung rather than spoken. Worse, the abduction of a powerful chieftain's daughter has raised tensions to the boiling point. Now Flinx must depend on his own mettle—and of course Pip, the devoted minidrag with the deadly edge—to right wrongs, mend fences, and battle a cold-blooded adversary armed with enough firepower to blow them all away . . . and destroy the chance for peace in Largess forever. Advance praise for *Strange Music* "Adventure-loving readers new to the series, as well as old fans, will enjoy [Alan Dean] Foster's return to Commonwealth space."—*Publishers Weekly*

One man in the Universe holds the key to the mystery of Flinx's past—and that man is trying to kill him! It is a strange childhood for a kid, to be adopted by the restless Mother Mastiff and raised in the bustling marketplace of Drallar. Flinx never knew the mom and dad who abandoned him years ago. In fact, his birth has always been shrouded in mystery. But Flinx eventually discovers that his unknown parents have left him a curious legacy—extraordinary mental powers that are both a marvelous gift and a dreaded curse. This double-edged legacy will lead Flinx, along with his loyal protector, the mini-dragon Pip, on a harrowing journey in search of the truth . . . about who he is and where he comes from. It is a daring adventure that brings him to another world—and into the clutches of one of the most evil and powerful men in the galaxy. . . .

"ENTERTAINING AND INTELLIGENT . . . This book is pure class all the way. . . . The final page is a great climax." —*Starburst*  
The Republic is decaying, even under the leadership of Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, who was elected to save the galaxy from collapsing under the forces of discontent. On the tiny but strategic planet of Ansion, a powerful faction is on the verge of joining the growing secessionist movement. At the Chancellor's request, the Jedi Council sends two Jedi Knights, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Luminara Unduli, along with their Padawans Anakin Skywalker and Barriss Offee, to stabilize the planet's population. To succeed, the Jedi will have to fulfill near-impossible tasks, befriend wary strangers, and influence two great armies, stalked all the while by an enemy sworn to see the negotiations collapse and the mission fail. . . . Features a bonus section following the novel that includes a primer on the *Star Wars* expanded universe, and over half a dozen excerpts from some of the most popular *Star Wars* books of the last thirty years!

A twenty-fifth anniversary edition brings together the original, complete "*Star Wars*" novels in a single volume that includes "*Star Wars: A New Hope*," "*The Empire Strikes Back*," and "*Return of the Jedi*."

**MASTER AND APPRENTICE** The Force is strong in twelve-year-old Anakin Skywalker . . . so strong that the Jedi Council, despite misgivings, entrusted young Obi-Wan Kenobi with the mission of training him to become a Jedi Knight. Obi-Wan? like his slain Master Qui-Gon?believes Anakin may be the chosen one, the Jedi destined to bring balance to the Force. But first Obi-Wan must help his undisciplined apprentice, who still bears the scars of slavery, find his own balance. Dispatched to the mysterious planet of Zonama Sekot, source of the fastest ships in the galaxy, Obi-Wan and Anakin are swept up in a swirl of deadly intrigue and betrayal. They sense a disturbance in the Force unlike any they have encountered before. It seems there are more secrets on Zonama Sekot than meet the eye. But the search for those secrets will threaten the bond between Obi-Wan and Anakin . . . and bring the troubled young apprentice face-to-face with his deepest fears?and his darkest destiny. Features a bonus section following the novel that includes a primer on the *Star Wars* expanded universe, and over half a dozen excerpts from some of the most popular *Star Wars* books of the last thirty years!

Anakin Skywalker searches for the evil Darth Sidious, struggles with his duty as a Jedi Knight and role as the secret husband of Senator Padme Amidala, and strives to eliminate all resistance to the Empire in his new role as Darth Vader.

The Approaching Storm Lucasbooks

Overlooked as a Padawan, he was to become one of the most revered Masters of all. Sworn to serve the Galactic Republic and the Jedi Order, his own apprentice would bring about their destruction. Powerless to retrieve Darth Vader from the dark side, he

would train the only one who could. This is the legendary story of Obi-Wan Kenobi from his first meeting with Anakin Skywalker to his final meeting with Darth Vader--and beyond....

Charged with educating young Anakin Skywalker in the ways of the Jedi, Obi-Wan Kenobi takes the boy to Zonama Sekot--where the fastest ships in the galaxy are built--and find danger aplenty in this distant port of call. Reprint.

It began as the ultimate voyage of discovery--only to become the stuff of lost Republic legend . . . and a dark chapter in Jedi history. Now, at last, acclaimed author Timothy Zahn returns to tell the whole extraordinary story of the remarkable--and doomed--Outbound Flight Project. The Clone Wars have yet to erupt when Jedi Master Jorus C'baoth petitions the Senate for support of a singularly ambitious undertaking. Six Jedi Masters, twelve Jedi Knights, and fifty thousand men, women, and children will embark--aboard a gargantuan vessel, equipped for years of travel--on a mission to contact intelligent life and colonize undiscovered worlds beyond the known galaxy. The government bureaucracy threatens to scuttle the expedition before it can even start--until Master C'baoth foils a murderous conspiracy plot, winning him the political capital he needs to set in motion the dream of Outbound Flight. Or so it would seem. For unknown to the famed Jedi Master, the successful launch of the mission is secretly being orchestrated by an unlikely ally: the evil Sith Lord, Darth Sidious, who has his own reasons for wanting Outbound Flight to move forward . . . and, ultimately, to fail. Yet Darth Sidious is not the mission's most dangerous challenge. Once underway, the starship crosses paths at the edge of Unknown Space with the forces of the alien Chiss Ascendancy and the brilliant mastermind best known as "Thrawn." Even Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi, aboard Outbound Flight with his young Padawan student, Anakin Skywalker, cannot help avert disaster. Thus what begins as a peaceful Jedi mission is violently transformed into an all-out war for survival against staggering odds--and the most diabolical of adversaries. Timothy Zahn's unique mix of espionage, political gamesmanship, and deadly interstellar combat breathes electrifying life into a Star Wars legend. Features a bonus section following the novel that includes a primer on the Star Wars expanded universe, and over half a dozen excerpts from some of the most popular Star Wars books of the last thirty years!

A thrilling prequel to the upcoming movie Star Wars: Episode II follows Obi-Wan and his Padawan, Anakin, as they embark on a dangerous mission to the planet of Ansion to stop raging border disputes. Reprint.

Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker embark on a mission to uncover the whereabouts of the evil Sith Lord, Darth Sidious, only to become trapped in a labyrinthine web of lies, betrayal, and intrigue.

"Screenplay written by Lawrence Kasdan & J.J. Abrams and Michael Arndt; based on characters created by George Lucas."

Flinx is the only one with any chance of stopping the evil colossus barreling in to destroy the Humanx Commonwealth (and everything else in the Milky Way). His efforts take him to the land of his mortal enemies, the bloodthirsty AAnn, where chances are excellent that Flinx may be executed. And he must also seek out an ancient sentient weapons platform wandering around the galaxy and then communicate with it, a powwow that could very well fry his brain. Then there are the oblivion-craving assassins determined to stop Flinx before he can prevent total annihilation. With a future that rosy, it's no surprise that Flinx is flirting with disaster. Still, he's no quitter. Now he's going to need every ounce of his know-how, because he's venturing to places where no one's ever been, to do what no one's ever done, and where his deadliest enemy is so close it's invisible.

Engaged in a troublesome diplomatic mission with Princess Leia to obtain the support of a planet's Rebel Underground in the fight against the empire, Luke Skywalker crash lands in the swamplands of Mimban. Reissue.

No Star Wars fan will want to miss this exciting eBook exclusive adventure from Nebula Award-winner Walter Jon Williams, author of the Star Wars The New Jedi Order hardcover novel, *Destiny's Way*. That's Jedi Knight Kyp Durron's opinion about the planet Ylesia, home base of the so-called Peace Brigade, a group of traitors dedicated to hindering the war efforts of the New Republic and hastening the ultimate victory of the merciless Yuuzhan Vong. Kyp's plan calls for a lightning-fast strike, backed with overwhelming force, to destroy the Brigade's offensive capabilities and teach prospective traitors that betrayal carries a heavy price. But young Jacen Solo, still bearing the scars of his imprisonment by the Yuuzhan Vong, has a better idea: a daring raid into the heart of Ylesia's capital, with the objective of capturing the Brigade's top leaders—including the newly sworn-in President, Thrackan Sal-Solo, cousin to Jacen and his twin, Jaina. But unknown to the Jedi and the New Republic forces, Supreme Overlord Shimrra of the Yuuzhan Vong has dispatched reinforcements to the Ylesia system. Instead of a swift surgical strike, Jaina, Jacen, Kyp, and their comrades are about to find themselves locked in a desperate battle for survival, with the odds stacked against them and time running out. . . .

BONUS: This original novella includes an exclusive excerpt from *Star Wars: New Jedi Order: Force Heretic I: Remnant* and an interview with the author.

Bestselling author Alan Dean Foster takes us back to the unplanned beginnings of the extraordinary Humanx Commonwealth... In the years after first contact, humans and the intelligent insectlike Thranx agree to a tentative sharing of ideas and cultures despite the ingrained repulsion they have yet to overcome. Thus, a slow, lengthy process of limited contact begins. Yet they never plan for a chance meeting between a misfit artist and a petty thief. Desvendapur is a talented Thranx poet who is bored with his life and needs new inspiration for his work. Venturing beyond the familiar, Desvendapur runs into Cheelo Montoya, a small-time criminal with big dreams of making a fast buck. Together they will embark upon a journey that will forever change their beliefs, their futures, and their worlds . . .

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