


# Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains

*Sylvia Engdahl*

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## **Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains** Sylvia Engdahl

Children of the Star trilogy, Book Two. Once Noren gained admission to the City where technology was hidden, he thought he had discovered how to make metal and Machines available to everyone and end the rule of the Scholars. But he soon learned it was not as simple as he had believed. Was it right to let people go on believing in the promises of a Prophecy that might not come true after all?

## **Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains Details**

Date : Published April 1973 by Atheneum

ISBN : 9780689300844

Author : Sylvia Engdahl

Format : Hardcover 257 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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# From Reader Review Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains for online ebook

## Valerie says

This is part two of the series that begins with *This Star Shall Abide*.

I have to say that I find the basic premise of this series a bit odd. Surely the ancestors of the colonists must have known for some time that their star was going to nova? Why couldn't they have made better provision beforehand? This is not the sort of thing that generally comes on with no warning.

And frankly, the whole history of the colony planet seems to me to have been a study in mismanagement. Did they have no capacity to develop plastics? Glasses? Ceramics? Composite materials? How did it happen that their technology is so dependent on metals? And why did it remain so?

People who don't even have non-wooden HOE HANDLES are likely to be in trouble down the road, no matter what resolution they come up with to their current problems.

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## Mitchell says

Book 2 of 3 in a series at least semi-connected to *Enchantress from the Stars* and *Far Side of Evil*. Basically a lot of talking and brow-beating but a surprisingly quick read anyway. This series is certainly more philosophical than the typical sf book. And touches on all the big topics - right and wrong, hypocrisy, religion, evolution of societies, the survival of humankind. All I can say is - it's too bad that this series has not had a bigger impact. 4 of 5.

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## Rain says

Not as good as the first novel, I've never liked existential angst that goes on for hundreds of pages.

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## Kevin Beck says

[ Noren struggles with depression when he realizes that the prophecy that gives the people hope for survival is destined to fail. (hide spoiler)]

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## Susan Henn says

6/2011 Not as good as the first book, *This Star Shall Abide*. Unfortunately the author spends the first 25% of the book intertwining a week story with a review of the material from first book to enable *Beyond the Tomorrow* to be a stand-alone volume. The rest of the book revolves around the main character's questions

about faith, not religious faith but faith in something beyond science (faith in humanity perhaps). This sequel was essentially a single-idea book, an idea it seems the author didn't feel she fully examine in the first book. The third book (which I don't plan to read) was written years later because a scientific breakthrough gave the author another idea to add to the original work. I need more than one idea books to sustain my interest.

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## **Tobyleaf says**

last read Nov 12

re-read Jan 14

my first go-to re-read is this author

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## **Gabriel C. says**

A hysterical (yikes not haha) polemic against the most naive good faith straw man version of atheism I can imagine having imagined. In the light of Delany, I can't view this as speculative anthropology, and instead must take it as deeply felt propaganda masked to reach a broader audience. I guess I basically find the dishonesty incredibly disheartening in a work that superficially values honesty so highly. This is an allergic reaction---the book is intended to be an affirmation of hope, but as to me it makes no sense to posit that it is only through faith that hope can be maintained, because I see hope and faith as so clearly logically distinct, it is a real struggle for me. Someone took a message I can get behind, presented it in a lovely manner, and then took a huge non-denominational evangelical shit right in the middle of it.

Perhaps I'm overreacting, but I don't think so. I remember when George H.W. Bush was president, he was asked something about atheists and his response was something like that they weren't American or didn't matter, or I don't know. I think this work falls in that tradition, however it might try to disguise it.

I'll read the third book, but I expect it to be more a celebration of faith and its redemptive power than anything else. I guess I'll be ready to eat crow if I'm wrong---seems like more than I can expect from any of the characters in these books.

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## **Rachel says**

I really liked this book. Yes, Noren had a lot of problems that I found unreasonable, but I really liked the solutions and everything. *Children of the Star*; *Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains* is simply very well written, and I'm already enjoying *Doors of the Universe*.

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## **Maya says**

Existential angst. Oy! Engdahl, as usual, deals with thoughtful, philosophical, and deeply important issues. However, I just couldn't wait for Noren to figure it out already. For goodness sakes, he was stuck for about 150 pages. Of course, I'm not the target audience at 39 so maybe this is just right for a 12-year-old.

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## Rhode says

I've always loved the title of this book - a line of poetry. The book itself isn't bad either....

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## Cliff says

Full disclosure: I didn't love this book as much as a four-star rating might otherwise indicate. But with Engdahl, I feel the need to adjust my rating curve in deference to the psychology behind Noren's character. Much more than the first book, which seemed strangely predictable...perhaps because the trope was one that was repeated since its writing, this book is a very introspective look at Noren's continued evolution from a wide-eyed child into a man willing to accept the burden of his duty to humanity.

I've often felt that amongst the books I've read there hadn't been many that made truly made think and in some ways, reconsider, my own drives and thoughts. But over the course of this book, we are exposed to Noren's seemingly immature snits and his motivation behind them. So, as Noren himself comes to terms with his own inner emotions, we the readers are almost brought along on this maturation as well.

Again, there's not a whole lot plot-wise which is worth discussing because the book is by-and-large a introspective one. And since I am reading these for pleasure, I think I was hoping for more along those lines. But this book is a good read, it's just not intended for those wanting a story of Noren discovering a breakthrough to help save humanity.

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## Kate says

"Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains" was not published in the UK during the 70s as the publisher apparently didn't deem it necessary to bring out the sequel to "Heritage of the Star" (UK edition of This Star Shall Abide). Needless to say it was only when I got access to the internet in the late 90s that I even realised there was a sequel (or actually \*two\* sequels). In 2000 I found out that there was a compilation of all three books coming out so I finally managed to read the sequels!

Anyway, I think that my opinion of The Tomorrow Mountains suffers a bit from me not having read it as a teen. Part of the amazingness of Heritage of the Star was the trials that Noren was put through, and as a teen I could certainly empathise with his emotional turmoil.

In "Beyond the Tomorrow Mountains", Noren is in turmoil yet again, this time over what he sees to be the impossibilities of actually fulfilling the Prophecy and bringing humanity back into a technological age. There's lots of angst and then a semi-suicidal action (view spoiler)

So I did enjoy the book, but it didn't take me on the emotional rollercoaster that the first did, and it wasn't adult enough to satisfy me intellectually in the way that the "Doors of the Universe" has done. But it was still wonderful to find out what happened to Noren and his society. Hence three stars.

