



El primer hereje nº 14

Aaron Dembski-Bowden , Juan Pascual Martínez Fernández (Translator)

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En medio de la guerra galáctica que supone la Gran Cruzada, el Emperador desaprueba el culto que le rinden los Portadores de la Palabra. Angustiados por semejante reproche, Lorgar y su legión emprenden un nuevo camino y arrasan un planeta tras otro. Aunque lo que realmente buscan es iluminar el Imperio, la corrupción del Caos se apodera de ellos y comienza su camino hacia la maldición. Sin que los Portadores de la Palabra lo sepan, su búsqueda de la verdad alberga las mismísimas raíces de la herejía...

El primer hereje nº 14 Details

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From Reader Review El primer hereje n° 14 for online ebook

Christian says

An incredibly compelling look into why it could be argued humanity NEEDS religion and is hardwired for belief in the spiritual. It's a tragic and heart breaking drama that asks the questions: What do you do when you find out that God is really the devil? And do you preach and hope for heaven even if you know your place is in hell?

Josh says

Fascinating explanation of how the seeds of Chaos were planted in the Word Bearer's legion and their Primarch Lorgar decades before the Horus Heresy began. Narrative begins at the humiliation and reprimanding of Lorgar at the hands of the Emperor for enforcing worship of the Emperor as God, and culminates in the drop site massacre of Isstvan 5.

Adam O'Grady says

This is solid science fiction, worthwhile even if you've never been into Warhammer 40k before. It's the story of Lorgar and his failure to live up to the warlike expectations set by his father and brothers. Instead he dreams of being a philosopher and priest and after being castigated for his work tries to find new divine inspiration, potentially leading to the damnation of humankind across the galaxy.

It's mostly told through the perspective of other warriors and people variously under Lorgar but this doesn't hamper the book in any way, if anything it helps outline the figures of Lorgar, the Emperor, and his brother Primarchs as larger than life gods in their own right.

One of my favourite aspects of the book is knowing how so much of what is unfolding is horrible and will scar the galaxy forever but also being able to understand the motivation and identify with Lorgar, the unloved child who worshipped his father.

If you are a fan of WH40k and want to get an amazing look at some of the great turning points in the Horus Heresy then you cannot miss this book.

Jean-Luc says

Almost 50 years before the Dropsite Massacre, the XIII legion (Ultramarines) forcibly evacuated the city of Monarchia, capital of Khur. The XVII Legion (Word Bearers) respond to Monarchia's distress call, and are ordered to descend to the planet's surface. There, the Emperor of Mankind orders Lorgar and his children to kneel. Lorgar is guilty of the heinous crime of worshipping the Emperor as a god, which is contrary to the Imperial Truth. As the Word Bearers prepare to leave Khur forever, Argel Tal, captain of the seventh assault company, rescues Cyrene Valantion, a young priestess who was blinded when she witnessed the city being

destroyed from orbit.

Lorgar is beside himself as his foster father, Kor Phaeron, master of the faith, and First Chaplain Erebus argue that perhaps the Emperor doesn't deserve their worship. But if the Emperor is a false god, does this mean there are real gods? Of course, there must be, all Lorgar has to do is seek them out! As the Word Bearers blur the line between right and wrong, and then shatter them forever, Cyrene is there, always there, to hear them confess their sins and grant them absolution. In the same way that Euphrati Keeler laid the foundations of the Imperial Cult that would dominate the Imperium post-heresy, Cyrene made the rebellion possible. There is no Horus Heresy without her. The Word Bearers would've split torn themselves apart, loyalists vs traitors, and the story would've ended there.

I can't tell if Argel Tal is tragic or contemptible. He knows what's happening is wrong, but nowhere does he act with courage and honour. No, he's not a friggin' Ultramarine, but neither was Nathaniel Garro or Saul Tarvitz! All Argel Tal does is waddle along like he has no choice. But isn't the whole point of being a space marine that you can force a way forward when the situation looks impossible?

The scene where Lorgar realizes Ferrus Manus, primarch of the X legion (Iron Hands), is about to die is heart-breaking. It didn't occur to him to reflect on his personal connections to his brothers *before* putting into motion plans to kill them all? Also too, how can Lorgar say he's no fighter when he fought like a daemon in Aurelian? Maybe I'm a little confused by the timeline and I need to re-read both.

One of the recurring themes of the Horus Heresy is that it didn't have to be this way. All the Emperor had to do was find a way to discipline his wayward son without humiliating Lorgar in front of *his* sons. This book reveals a horrible truth behind the Horus Heresy: The Emperor was a *terrible* father, meaning this tragedy wasn't as avoidable as it seemed.

Alexander Draganov says

Fascinating novel, which transcends the genre with metaphysical discussion about the role of religion in a supposedly enlightened society and the perception of Heaven and Hell in the mind of the believer, all of this interwoven into an enthralling and epic space opera with gargantuan battles and level of gore, which is not for the squeamish. Detailed review in Bulgarian here:

<http://citadelata.com/the-first-heretic/>

Fabián Vaca says

Excelente libro, muy recomendado para los que nos gusta Wh40k y la ciencia ficción en general.

Emil Söderman says

Like Fulgrim, A Thousand Sons, and the short story Butcher's Nails in Tales of Heresy, this book largely follows one of the traitor primarchs and his fall into Chaos. This time Lorgar Aurelian the Word Bearer: Most devoted son of the Emperor, first convert to Chaos.

The result is... Mixed. What you realize after a couple of books is that *The Emperor is a shitty dad*. And just about all problems in the Heresy stems out of his inability to consider the emotional and psychological needs of his gaggle of genetically engineered supersons. Lorgar for instance, loves his father, and initially instructed his Word Bearers (and the planets he conquered) to worship him as a God. Something daddy emperor does not approve off, and let's just say he overreacts in a way only the Emperor of Mankind can do.

Thus far it works very well, Lorgar's hurt and feelings of betrayal feel real, and not unjustified. As does his wish to be something other than a conquering warlord. It's when the entire human sacrifice and having your subordinates possessed by daemons thing starts that I'm kind of losing track here. Now, there's always been this feeling of "Why on earth would anyone actually worship Chaos?" thing going on in WH40K (although "Because you'll die anyway and at least you'll get a spiffy new pair of tentacles." has always been the go-to answer) but Lorgar's decision feels particularly weak, now, partially that might be because the bit where his actual "conversion" takes place is a separate novella, *Aurelian* which I haven't read. But that still leaves this book. Which is... Mixed.

Some bits are very strong, but they're not very well-connected, simple as that. Now, I've always been the kind of guy who can forgive relatively large flaws as long as they deliver on some point, but I know others are more discerning, so I hesitate to actually recommend it as anything more than an average 40K novel.

Keamy Loken says

Well all the other teenage girls where worshipping Twilight, I was on a Pilgrimage with the Word Bearers to find the true gods.

My first experience with Aaron Dembski-Bowden was *Helsreach*. By far not his best book and also...I've lately come to realize I really hate the Black Templars. So to say I was excited when I found out Aaron was the writer for this book would be a lie, I was mad. The story really interested me however and I bought the book.

I am sorry I judged Aaron D-B on *Helsreach*, *The First Heretic* was amazing. Honestly, it is one of the best heresy books. I'd put it aside *Horus Rising*, (which takes a lot for me to say) the tale of the Word Bearers was *sotragic*.

It is really cool to see that the first heretic wasn't actually the Horus and the Luna Wolves. It was Lorgar and the Word Bearers, who had to wait for the time to be right because no one but me likes them enough to follow them into heresy.

The opening of the book is the discipline of the Word Bearers for there over zealous nature. Well actually they weren't over zealous they flat out worshiped the Emperor as a god. (Which they need to wait about 60 years before its accepted as normal to worship him.)

So the Emperor of Mankind didn't like this, so instead of manning up and acting like a parent and going to spend sometime with his son and explain to him that he never should worship him he decided using his amazing intellect to set his sons against each other and ordered the Ultramorons and Robert Girlyman to totally destroy Lorgar's favorite city on his home world, Monarchia.

The Emperor is so brilliant. Really, what kind of dipwad does that and expects his kid to be a better guy from

it? *facepalm*

This book was filled with wonderful details of Lorgar's character, it was a very unique experience to get into a primarch's mind and see how he thinks. Also personally this was one of the most creepy Horus Heresy novels I've read.

All the demon stuff and the extensive lies that had to be told, the double crossing and betrayals. By the end you almost begin to like Custodians. Almost.

A must read for anyone who likes heresy.

Steve says

The First Heretic is the 14th book in the series, and is written by Aaron Dembski-Bowden ('easily the coolest name' according to a clip from the DLT podcasts). He's written a few other books for Black Library, but I don't believe I've read any of them yet.

The novel covers Lorgar and his legion, the Word Bearers. There are three phases to the book, which are actually divided to help the reader out:

Grey, the Word Bearers fall from grace, and their punishment by the Emperor.

Pilgrimage, their voyage to discover Gods worthy of their worship and go to the place where 'gods and man meet' or some such, and

Crimson, their first steps as a legion of Chaos.

I'll highlight the good/bad things about the book, and what I think of it overall- I don't think there is much in the way of spoilers, since the basic story (the Word Bearers turn to Chaos) is not surprising to fans of the universe.

First, the overall progression of the story is fantastic. Covering some 43 years of Word Bearers history is pretty significant given the end result of the period. As you read, you get to see how a very very loyal (and faithful legion) gets on the Emperor's 'bad side', and how it is hinted to be very close to receiving the same treatment two of the other legions (the expunged legions). You also get the whole story as to the journey of discovery the legion undertook to search for the gods of the Old Faith- who they are convinced exist, since so many different worlds in very different parts of the galaxy have stories related to them. Upon finding the gods, we get to experience the legion's transformation into the new Word Bearers, as well as read about the first Possessed. The story moved along pretty well throughout. There was plenty of dialogue, which is important for fleshing out the background of the Horus Heresy, but there was no shortage of action (including another perspective of Isstvan V) to help break up the 'slower' parts.

To me, the focus of the Horus Heresy series is (or largely should be) on the Primarchs, and this book does a great job of that. Lorgar features heavily and there are interactions with Guilliman, Magnus, and Corax (briefly), as well as appearances by Perturabo, Konrad Curze, and Alpharius. Corax, Guilliman, and Perturabo really haven't been in the series thus far, so their inclusion was a nice bonus (at least for me). Curze has only been in the Audiobooks, so again, I loved the fact he was in it. Of course, the focus of the book is on Lorgar, and the book does a fantastic job filling in details of his personality and skills (largely as

an orator). It also makes a point to show that he is VERY different than his brothers when it comes to combat skills. Lorgar laments several times throughout the book on this, early on saying "I will never understand tactics and logistics with the effortless ease of Guilliman or the Lion. I will never possess the skill with a blade shown by Fulgrim or the Khan," as he struggles with his role in the galaxy. As the book progresses, he struggles with his role and beliefs, finally deciding to worship gods that WANT to be worshipped, and provide gifts to those that do.

This book, like the first few in the series, I think does a GREAT job of really giving the reader a view into the mind of a genetically engineered superhuman- something I think makes these books the best in the series. You get to know Lorgar, his goals, his feelings on faith and the universe (and his place in it), and also you sympathize somewhat with the reasons for his turning traitor. Dembski-Bowden does a fantastic job of getting you inside Lorgar's head, as well as any of the authors in the series have done so far.

I love the new perspective on the battle of Isstvan V. Sure, we read about the battle somewhat in Fulgrim, but here we read about the roles of some of the various traitor legions who came towards the end of the fight, as well as how the massacre at the end unfolded. Lorgar's role in the battle was an interesting read, as well as the interactions between him and two of his brothers.

Overall, I'd say this is a great addition to the series- indeed I think it's one of the stronger books in the series, and although it hasn't moved the story on past Isstvan, knowing the background behind another legion's fall and the brief lead-up to the battle on Calth (where the Word Bearers fight the Ultramarines, delaying their movement to defend Terra) is fascinating. If you love the series, you'll read it anyway. If you have interest in the Word Bearers, there are plenty of background bits to warrant reading it on its own.

(From my blog: <http://boisterous-exuberance.blogspot...>)

Sean McGovern says

There are two characters in this entry into the Horus Heresy series that can be labeled tragic. First is the primarch (general/son of the Emperor of Mankind [EOM]) Lorgar (Space Jesus...and later Space Judas), who, after 200 years (just go with it) has just now been chastised for promoting the religious worship of the EOM (who espouses an atheistic world/galaxy/universal view). This chastisement takes the form of the EOM sending an army and destroying one of Lorgar's best examples of ability and mental recondition of a population, using the forces of the primarch Guilliman (Julius/Augustus Caesar...in SPACE!). The rest of Lorgar's time in the book is him refusing to give up the idea that mankind needs religion and seeking proof of god(s) at the edge of known space. All the while he has two two underlings whispering in his ears - Erebus (again, just go with this) the Chaplin and Kor Phaeron, his second in command. And along for the ride is...

Argel Tal, the second tragic character who acts as point man to Lorgar's Pilgrimage, and who's humanity really depends on his devotion to (and protection of) Cyrene, one of the survivors from Guilliman/EOM's destruction of Monarchia. For my money, Argel Tal is the better character, but his story compliments/completes Lorgar's so completely, allowing the reader a glimpse at the EOM's process of creation - not only of the Primarchs but of the Empire - and focuses on the drive to be...not liked. Beloved.

Dembski-Bowden clearly had alot of fun fleshing out his corner of the Warhammer 40k universe - characters

from the "Night Lords" series show up, as does Cadia - land of badassess who gave us half the cast of the Guard v. Zombies novel "Cadian Blood". I recommend reading "Deliverance Lost" right after you finish "The First Heretic" - which is a different take on the theme of fatherhood, and the sins incurred and passed on to the children.

Derek Weese says

This book was simply excellent. I could leave it at that, but I won't.

The book follows the evolution of the Word Bearers Legion from Loyalist to Heretic Legion.

At first I wasn't sure about this book. Both 'Horus Rising' and 'Fulgrim' were spectacular and honestly all the other Heresy books I had read were really good (though my head is still spinning from 'Legion') so why hesitate. Well the reason is Ben Counter's excellent 'Battle for the Abyss'. It's his fault really. See I am relatively new to the fiction end of the Warhammer 40K universe and so my own ideas of the Word Bearers were formed by using them periodically on the first 'Dawn of War' PC game as well as the miniatures my Friends had of them. Needless to say, and after reading Counter's take on them, I was convinced that a book devoted to a Legion of religious fanatics (Satanic fanatics at that) could not possibly be good unless I read all the dialogue in the vein of something resembling 'RAAAWWRRRR!!!!'...

I was pleasantly surprised.

Mr. Bowden wrote an amazing book, one that actually made me feel sympathy for the Word Bearers but especially their Primarch Lorgar. I was a little clueless as to the hatred the Word Bearers bore (ha!) for the Ultramarines from Counter's book and this book does a wonderful job of not only making that such a pivotal event (they why they hate the Ultramarines that is) but also making you, even if only briefly, want to see the Ultramarines get their asses kicked for what they did.

Bowden follows the Legion and especially Lorgar as they make the long fall to Chaos and become the first Heretic Legion. An added treat (especially a newbie for myself) was the visit to a dead eldar world (visit paid for and provided by a Chaos daemon) where the birth of Chaos so to speak in the galaxy came to be.

All in all I can't praise this book highly enough and I have heard rumors of a 'Night Lords' omnibus featuring Mr. Bowden's trilogy on the Night Lords Legion (I hope this is true as I have discovered that the first two volumes are no longer in print sadly...) which excites me greatly. I definitely look forward to more from Mr. Bowden as the Heresy unfolds.

David says

I've been reading the books in the official 'suggested reading order,' and it was very hard not to skip ahead and read this one because I wanted to know more about the machinations of Erebus, Kor Phaeron, and of course, Lorgar. It did not disappoint. (And was worth waiting for). I am truly addicted to this massive series; I remember reading all the 'bits of fluff' I could in the rulebooks and Codices when I was a teen. This series is the long-awaited culmination of those snippets.

Student Teacher says

I was really looking forward to this book, as the Word Bearers were one of the original legions that I know very little about. My only previous experience was with *The Battle For the Abyss*, and that wasn't really a Word Bearer book.

I enjoyed this book a great deal. It was different from many of the other Horus books in that we have a main character that isn't a stand out against the fall of his legion like Garro from the Death Guard, or even someone who is convinced he is doing what is good for the Imperium as Ahriman is in *A Thousand Sons*. Here we have a main character and a whole legion that are sure that the Emperor is wrong, and they are hell bent on finding the true gods that the Emperor denies, even if those gods are the Chaos Gods that we all know and love.

The only part of this story I really didn't like was one scene where Erebus and Kor Phadon convince Lorgar to abandon the way of the Imperium and that the legion should seek out the old gods. It all takes place in the space of about 10 or 15 pages. It seemed way too fast.

I did, however like the back story behind the fall of the Word Bearers. Especially the scenes with the Emperor. I believe this is the first time where we've had the Emperor in one of the stories (except for the short story in *Tales of Heresy*). It was awesome to see a whole legion including their primarch humbled by the Emperor.

We also got to see a bit more of the Custodes and their bad-ass-itude. Those guys rock!

In the end, as with all Horus books, we know what is going to happen, but it is the path that leads us to the end that is worth the trip.

I am very tempted to give this five possessed Space Marines out of five, but it doesn't quite make it. If I were to give "half points" I'd do that, but we'll have to settle for four out of five.

Rebecca says

OK, this is THE book that makes EVERYTHING, the whole heresy deal and Chaos, make sense! It's the one that tells you everything you need to go on with pretty much any heresy book now. You thought you had "The Aether" all figured out in "Thousand Sons" eh? Whatever! This takes the Emphyrean to a whole new level on a different scale! I LOVED all the deamons in this one!(even if it might have been "too gory" for your weak, lesser mortal minds.) Creep me out all you want I LOVE THIS!!!

I'm glad it didn't leave me so depressed in the end, even though I probably should have been,... I mean, everybody's still screwed in every impossible way they can't fix,... Khaos's viewpoint on things does that I guess.

The Author's (yes I can spell his full name fine without the book, I just choose to respect his hard earned, awesomeness title) choice of words made things so interesting... my vocabulary has boosted by the thousands I swear(even though I probably don't demonstrate it well in this instance but I wrote all the odd words down for dictionary "look up" later, and punctuation is the real issue here)... Many times I nearly busted up laughing over something as stupid as an arrangement of prose. Ah that dry sarcasm kills me, Tarik did it the worst though:)

I find no fault in the writing that any idiot can't deal with. An amazing ride, back to front. So in the "words of Wyrdmake"(no pun intended) I'll stop "wasting my time with fancy words"....

It was flat out A.W.E.S.O.M.E.! Read it!

Andrew Ziegler says

Where to start with my review of this book? I guess, the first stop will be the author. I have not read anything by Aaron Dembski-Bowden yet, neither in the 40K universe or in any other alternate universe of fiction that he has written in. Wait, scratch that, rewind, yes, I belong to his blog, and remember very distinctly his amazing blog about pitching an idea to Dan Abnett and the other 40K mucky-mucks. It was hilarious. That besides the point. Aaron is legit. This was out of the norm for me. Normally the Heresy series has painted pictures of fallen and faithful in equal measure, usually giving you at least ONE faithful main character to hang your hat on. This book...had none. The main Word Bearer marine was fallen until the end. And although I applaud the author for this stance and by doing this he holds a light up to the question, who IS the bad guy...REALLY? Which is amazing, but I was left sad all I had was Aquillon and his hated Custodes. As for the story, it was amazing. Aaron fleshes out parts of the heresy that have always been glossed over in all the 40K back story, and for that I am really grateful. I very much enjoyed his story telling style, the way that every part of the book was interesting and with its own unique mood. Part 1 to me was just so sad, the fall of Lorgar would not have happened in the 40K universe where the Emperor IS revered as a God. Part 2 was horrifying. And Part 3 was heart wrenching. Kudos to Mr. Dembski-Bowden for bowing into this series with his first excellent entry. Part 14 of the Heresy takes you back to its roots with a bang, and a twist in your heart. I am hoping the story begins to propel itself to the final confrontation after Age of Darkness and Prospero Burns...and moves onto a similar Trilogy style ending mirroring its amazing opening. My dream team for the final three books, where it happen this way? Abnett, MacNeill, and now Dembsi-Bowden.
