



Surface Detail (Culture)

By Iain M. Banks

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Surface Detail (Culture) By Iain M. Banks

It begins in the realm of the Real, where matter still matters.

It begins with a murder. And it will not end until the Culture has gone to war with death itself.

Lededje Y'breq is one of the Intagliated, her marked body bearing witness to a family shame, her life belonging to a man whose lust for power is without limit. Prepared to risk everything for her freedom, her release, when it comes, is at a price, and to put things right she will need the help of the Culture.

Benevolent, enlightened and almost infinitely resourceful though it may be, the Culture can only do so much for any individual. With the assistance of one of its most powerful - and arguably deranged - warships, Lededje finds herself heading into a combat zone not even sure which side the Culture is really on. A war - brutal, far-reaching - is already raging within the digital realms that store the souls of the dead, and it's about to erupt into reality.

It started in the realm of the Real and that is where it will end. It will touch countless lives and affect entire civilizations, but at the center of it all is a young woman whose need for revenge masks another motive altogether.

SURFACE DETAIL is Iain M. Banks' new Culture novel, a breathtaking achievement from a writer whose body of work is without parallel in the modern history of science fiction.

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Surface Detail (Culture) By Iain M. Banks Bibliography

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- 656 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Banks's labyrinthine and devious ninth Culture space opera novel (after 2008's *Matter*) adeptly shifts perspective between vast concepts and individual passions. The blissfully disorganized, galaxy-spanning Culture has fabulous technology that gives human and alien entities freedom to choose who and what they want to be. When sex slave Lededje Y'breq is murdered by a politician on the planet Sichult, the artificial intelligence running one of the Culture's immense starships resurrects her so she can seek revenge.

Meanwhile, the Culture is uneasily watching the conflict over whether to preserve virtual Hells for the souls of "sinners" or give them the release of death. Leaping with jaw-dropping speed from character to character and from reality to virtuality, the narrative swiftly pulls these concerns together. New readers may be taken aback by the rapid pace, but fans will dive right in and won't come up for air until the final page. (Nov.) (c) Copyright © PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Iain M. Banks's Culture novels, one suspects, won't be fully appreciated by any but avid SF readers for quite some time, even if the author routinely reaches beyond classification. His world building is never less than spectacular. The AI components of his stories prompt comparisons to Philip K. Dick; his rich backdrops certainly influenced those of Alastair Reynolds and China Mieville. Yet what separates Banks from the ranks of other SF writers is the human component that thrives postsingularity—after technology has made its creators obsolete. Banks's trademark—big ideas and equally compelling individual stories mingling seamlessly—is on full display here.

From [Booklist](#)

Beginning with *Consider Phlebas* (1987), Banks' Culture novels have showcased his prodigious talent for world building, featuring extravagant vistas of superadvanced technological civilizations and their virtual-reality playgrounds. In the ninth outsize installment, Banks juggles multiple plot threads on a sweeping canvas, embracing Culture-based artificial worlds known as orbitals, supremely powerful artificial intelligences, and virtual heavens and hells. One story line follows the murder and AI-facilitated resurrection of tattooed sex slave Lededje Y'breq, who is willingly conscripted in a plan to exact revenge on her politician killer and shift the balance of power between embattled Culture factions. Another follows the efforts of two quadruped creatures called Pavuleans to pry their way out of a secret virtual hell and back into the Real, where wealthy moguls are gearing up for war among the digital realms. While each Culture novel can be read alone, newcomers are advised to breathe deeply before diving in, as Banks never lets up in a dizzying array of characters, mind-bending ideas, and dazzling action. --Carl Hays

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Gray:

The book *Surface Detail (Culture)* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make examining a book *Surface Detail (Culture)* to be your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open and read a guide *Surface Detail (Culture)*. Kinds of book are a lot

of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this publication?

Traci Daniels:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Surface Detail (Culture), it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Sandra Castillo:

Is it a person who having spare time then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something new? This Surface Detail (Culture) can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Helen Albertson:

Many people said that they feel fed up when they reading a e-book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the particular book Surface Detail (Culture) to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading ability is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open a book and read it. Beside that the publication Surface Detail (Culture) can to be your friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of this time.

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