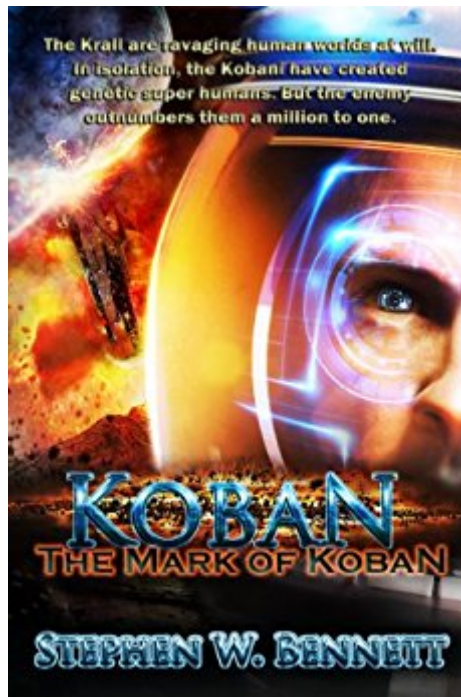


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Koban: The Mark Of Koban



Synopsis

Book 2 of a series Already faster and more powerful than the last 17 species that they have eliminated or subjugated, the Krall have set their sights on humankind. After testing humans on their future home world of Koban and finding them worthy opponents, the Krall start a war of slow extermination with the rest of humanity. This war is intended to last generations as they apply their own version of "natural selection" to cull their weaker warriors in combat, purifying the Krall gene pool with finest warriors for breeding. Why? The Krall desire to become powerful enough to eventually live on the world of Koban, where the impossibly fast and powerful animals have proven to be too much for the Krall to master without technology to help. The only way the Krall survive on Koban is to live in isolated and well-protected domes, safe from the fauna they fiercely desire to dominate. Only through the attrition of war will the Krall perfect their bloodline to become the masters of Koban. Before the Krall departed Koban to start their new war, they destroyed the protections that allowed the Krall to survive on this dangerous planet. The Krall left the humans on the planet to fall victim to the high gravity, to the fast and savage wildlife and its deadly predators. Big mistake. They should have killed the test "animals" themselves! The bio-scientist they left behind add Koban genes to the next generation of humans. They are becoming what the Krall sought to be. The humans on Koban, locked in a struggle for their own survival, return to the stars to help humanity fight and, outnumbered, take the war to the Krall. (Book 1 was Koban, in this series.)

Book 3, Koban: The Rise of the Kobani, coming in fall 2013.

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Customer Reviews

SPOILER WARNING You know you've stumbled across a great series of books when the first sequel is even better than the original book. The Mark of Koban starts immediately after the first book and continues into about the eighteenth year of the first Koban-born generation of humans. Dillon and Norleen (Mirikawi's First Officer), and Thad Greeves and Marlyn Rodriguez (First Officer from a ship captured later) become the first married couples to have even more genetically enhanced children. Because of the last minute arrival of so many newly captured ships and humans at the end of the first book, the majority of the humans stuck on Koban still resist human gene manipulation, both for the social stigma attached and because of the extreme laws banning such science in human-controlled space. Those against genetic adaptation move to the larger abandoned Krall dome nearby, which is safer. Ironically, "Hub City" relies heavily on Mirikawi's group to survive. While the rest of the human race finds out about the Krall as rim worlds are attacked and decimated, Mirikawi's group adapts to Koban and negotiates truces with two of its most important predator species, the Rippers and Wolfbats. The firstborn children, with additional gene enhancements, have already become stronger and faster than the Krall. Just in time, because a Krall clanship decides to land on their forbidden future homeworld for a little rhinolo hunt. Mirikawi's plan seems to be working. The Krall are no match for the new Kobani. Unfortunately, their enemies vastly outnumber them and have a seemingly inexhaustible supply of war materiel furnished by their as yet unmet alien slave species.

This book picks up right after the first book in the series. At the end of the last book the arrogant and, to some extent, ignorant Krall left the humans on Koban to die at the hands of the native inhabitants of Koban. That was probably the Krall's greatest mistake. As you have probably surmised already the humans do not intend to follow the "Great Path" of the Krall and they do not go down that easy. This is a story about human heroism, human ingenuity and persistence. As usual there are also a few political (censored) trying to screw things up big time but again these sorry (censored) individuals are rather quickly disposed of and some of them in a rather gruesome

way. Yet they do get what their incredibly stupid actions deserve. I almost wish that we would encounter a hostile alien race so we could cull some of the (censored) politicians that we are forced to endure today. As I mentioned the Krall left the humans on Koban to die. Needless to say they did not follow the Krall's plans. If you have read the previous book you would expect the humans to continue their genetic advances to create humans that could withstand the Krall. They did indeed do that but the author was not content with such a simple story. The native Krall fauna provided quite a few surprises. Surprises that the Krall was too ignorant, arrogant or too stupid to realize not to mention take advantages of. The humans did not make the same mistake. This is a really good book but it is still quite a bit of a build up to the final (?) confrontation.

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