



A Call to Arms (The Damned)

By Alan Dean Foster

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For eons, the Amplitur had searched space for intelligent species, each of which was joyously welcomed to take part in the fulfillment of the Amplitur Purpose. Whether it wanted to or not. When the Amplitur and their allies stumbled upon the races called the Weave, the Purpose seemed poised for a great leap forward. But the Weave's surprising unity also gave it the ability to fight the Amplitur and their cause. And fight it did -- for thousands of years.

Will Dulac was a New Orleans composer who thought the tiny reef off Belize would be the perfect spot to drop anchor and finish his latest symphony in solitude. What he found instead was a group of alien visitors -- a scouting party for the Weave, looking for allies among what they believed to be a uniquely warlike race: Humans.

Will tried to convince the aliens that Man was fundamentally peaceful, for he understood that Human involvement would destroy the race. But all too soon, it didn't matter. The Amplitur had discovered Earth...

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Subtitled Book One of the Damned, Foster's (Glory Lane) latest novel never achieves credibility. The projectively telepathic race of Ampliturs has conceived of a Purpose, which will be revealed when all the sapient races of the galaxy are united. Using either logic, subversion or, reluctantly, force, they have recruited each new race they have encountered, then used mental persuasion and genetic engineering to turn those races into allies. The Weave, a coalition of peoples that do not want to be assimilated, has been fighting them for centuries when a Weave exploratory ship stumbles across the Earth. Humans are just beginning to learn to be peaceful; how will they react to a request by aliens to fight other aliens? In order to credit this scenario, readers must accept a very skewed future universe: of all the planets with intelligent life, only Earth is tectonically active, with violent weather and more than one land mass; only humans have more than one language, fight within their own species and are, for some reason, immune to the Ampliturs' telepathy. The writing is crisp, but cannot make up for the burden these contrivances place on the story.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- This promising new series depicts galactic warfare on a grand scale, encompassing untold numbers of races and worlds on both sides, and lasting hundreds of years. The Ampliturs, a telepathically manipulative race, attempts to convert to its nebulous purpose all sentient life through the use of persuasion, threats, and genetic manipulation. The Weave, a not-always harmonious coalition of races, has taken up arms in an attempt to pursue its own destinies. Because of the basic aggressive nature of Earthlings, the Weave recruit individuals to use as warriors in their battle against the Ampliturs. Will Dulac, New Orleans composer and teacher, is the first. As in *Nor Crystal Tears* (1985) and *Midworld* (1987, both Ballantine), Foster has created a believable universe and peopled it with exotic races and memorable characters. A readable, well-crafted science-fiction adventure.

- John Lawson, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, VA

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From Library Journal

A war between two groups of unified aliens--the Ampliturs and the Weave--involves the human race in a secondhand war despite protestations of humanity's essentially "peaceful" nature. Veteran sf storyteller Foster ("The Icerigger Trilogy," "The Adventures of Flinx of the Commonwealth") delivers a cinematic blend of sf adventure and personal drama that should appeal to a wide readership. For most sf collections. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 12/90..

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth McGrath:

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William Henslee:

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