

LoveReading Reader reviews of SEVENEVES by Neal Stephenson

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Teresa O'Halloran

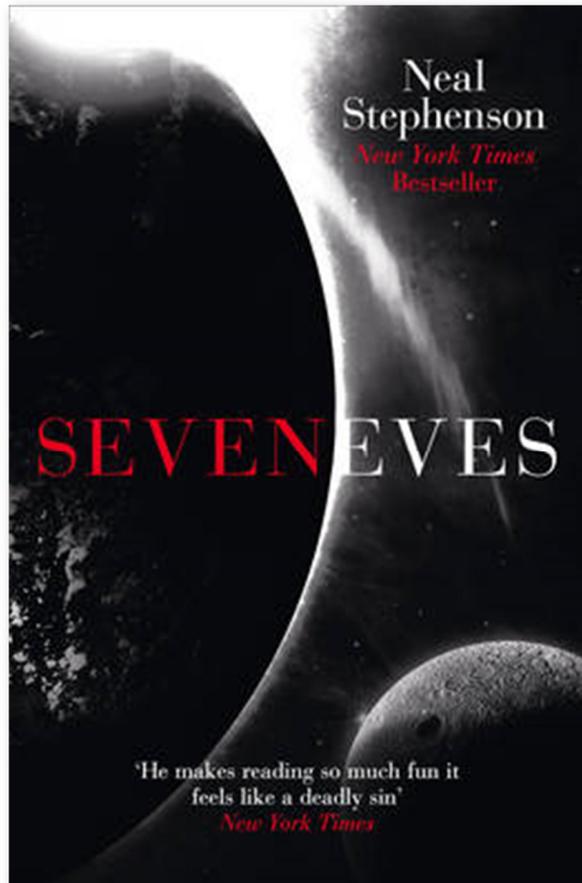
This had me gripped from the start. From the moment the moon explodes, I was enthralled. Now I can't look at the night sky in the same way. It has completely changed my view of the solar system.

A mighty door-stopper of a book at first I was a little fazed, but this book is so gripping, and so well written it didn't take me half as long to read it as I thought it would.

Split into three parts, I was completely engrossed, particularly by parts one and two. From the moment the moon explodes and meteorites begin to pummel the earth, I was caught up in the action, even a little scared, especially when people are evacuated to the International Space Station.

Part three wasn't as gripping for me as it skips ahead and we leave old familiar characters behind, but I soon got involved and quickly got hooked.

This book has changed my outlook on this planet, and all the other planets out there - even the moon seems to have changed shape overnight!



Sarah Musk

A magnificent science-fiction epic. Neal Stephenson has written a first class, apocalyptic tale with one of the best opening lines to a book you will ever read.

This is a stunning book both in the scale of the story and in the quality of the writing. It is quite daunting to read an eight hundred page book but an epic tale deserves an epic read.

The story it tells is that of the end of the world and the survival of a few people in space whose existence is very tenuous. It is gripping from the first sentence of the book. As first lines go it is an absolute winner and unlikely to be forgotten. I am a fan of science fiction but not necessarily high tech science fiction which this book is in large parts. Large parts of the science and the technology I found hard to understand but I managed to grasp the gist of most of it and that was enough. The story is so magnificent - the tension so gripping that you race on and on through the book along with the diverse characters wanting them to overcome, wanting them to return to Earth.

If you are a fan of Neal Stephenson, and I imagine many people are, you will devour this book in days as I did once I started reading.

Edel Waugh

'Sevneves' is the story about the end of our world and the beginning of a new world in space. When the moon explodes and earth waits on the particles to hit it in an almighty hard rain, the people on the International Space Station, begin to prepare themselves for life up here in space, earth sends up into space everything they need to start making new earth. The fairly small amount of people up here will be responsible for creating more humans, animals, plant life etc. starting the world afresh with none of the problems that earth caused with war, religion, pollution etc. everything is to be more balanced with more humanity and less harm . These people that are on board Izzy (International Space Station) will produce children and then their children will have children etc. until we get to the most recent generation which are all descendants of the original people on board, back when earth became nonexistent. We see a whole new life up there in space, its travel, food and plant life, how it evolved from the beginning, the mistakes and the improvements made with each generation.

This was an epic space voyage that was over 800 pages of awesomeness. The detail that was put into this was truly amazing and I would recommended this to anyone with any interest in space or

dystopian books.

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Clare Topping

An unknown force causes the Moon to break into seven pieces. After the initial shock has passed the realisation hits that in order to survive the human race has to find a way to get as many people into space as possible. And, they only have two years left before the earth is made uninhabitable. What follows for the next five hundred pages is a race to find a way to expand the International Space Station, make preparations to send up thousands of people and find a way to keep them alive without any back up from earth. Then, the book fast forwards to a date five thousand years later when those inhabiting the space above the earth think it's time to come back.

To a non-science fiction devotee, the story is fascinating and at times managed to pull me in. However, although some explanations were probably necessary, I felt that the author went into far too much detail in places and started to lose the momentum of the storyline. There were lots of detailed explanations of the engineering and science required to expand the ISS, find propellants, and capture comets and mechanisms for returning to earth. Conversely, in the second half of the book I wanted more detail, particularly about the genetics and therefore differences in the seven different sets of descendants of those who survived in space.

With many interesting characters, lots of recognisable politics and several plot twists this is a really enjoyable, if long read.

Sophia Ufton

This book is amazing! Keeps you gripped right until the end. On the edge of your seat good. Keep up the good work!!

The world is ending, a catastrophic event starts a ticking time bomb and ultimately starts a feverish race against the inevitable.... the total end of the universe. A plan is formed to ensure the survival of the human race. The philosophy, technology, psychology, science and literature in this book based on fiction offers you the reader a portrait of a future that is so easily recognisable.

Five thousand years later, seven distinct races, three billion strong, start on another journey into the unknown, to an alien world distorted by cataclysm and

time.... Earth!!

What will they find? Will there be different races here too? Or will the Earth be empty of everyone?

Humaira Kauser

I loved this book. It made me think about what I would do if the moon was to explode and what I'd leave behind for the future to learn from. It combines everything from different cultures to science.

*To begin with **the concept of the book is brilliant**. I love how everything from different cultures to the sciences is explored.*

When I started reading this book, I got really confused because Neal Stephenson used an unnecessary amount of characters. He introduced so many names and people that I feel didn't really need to be mentioned. It was hard to recall who was who and what they did.

What I did like is that even though the book was told in a third person narrative, we got to look closely at what certain characters went through (like Dinah and Doob) and not just focusing on just one character in the time frame. It was easy to read and the pace was steady but the book is humongous (869 pages!) so it would take more than a few coffee breaks to finish.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the book and made me actually think what would happen if the moon was to explode. What would we leave behind as a legacy for the people of the future to discover? Throughout the book I kept coming up with scenarios and thinking what I would do if the explosion of the moon really did happen.

Not just anyone who has the passion for sci-fi or anything to do with it should pick up this book, everyone should read it.

Elena Robertson

This is a futuristic novel set in space that I felt had an extremely interesting premise and despite too much detail on how the technology works I enjoyed and would recommend to science fiction lovers.

This is the first book I have read by Neal Stephenson and so I was a little unsure what to expect. However, I was drawn by the synopsis of a catastrophic event rendering the earth a ticking time bomb and space and astronauts, so even

though it was a beast of a novel at over 860 pages I wanted to try it. We are steadily introduced to a host of characters who play important roles in the story, including some great strong female characters. And although I felt that this was a little science heavy I was able to follow most of what was going on, however I did find that the info dumping pulled me from the story throughout which I didn't like, but not enough to stop reading. Overall it was a good read and one I feel that science fiction lovers will not be disappointed with and for those like me who are just starting out it was accessible enough to enjoy and follow.

You can follow Elena on Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG2fmuUAmFVV_kGZE6jXJwg

Karen McIntosh

The moon is no more, humanity must try to survive somehow. Over 5 thousand years it does -but how!

The moon explodes into pieces and the resulting pieces are going to rein down on Earth for Millennia, destroying all life on the planet. Humanity must find a way to survive but it's going to take the whole world to pull together to make sure something survives the onslaught of the Hard Rain. This book tells the gripping story of how we try to ensure that life goes on and the sacrifices that have to be made to do it.

I was truly hooked from the start of this book as the story was so well written and researched. Sometimes I found the in depth technical descriptions hard to concentrate on but the story of the survivors and the lengths they had to go to was so good I had to keep going. I found the characters believable and was drawn to certain ones, not realising how vital they would become to the story.

The Seveneves of the title become apparent later on and this brings a new dimension to the story. I truly couldn't put it down and wanted to find out what happens next.

As a Sci-fi fan this really hit the mark for me!

Suzanne James

A thought-provoking story of a future Earth that draws you right in to its tense plot.

Some science fiction takes a while to get into as you have to change your

mindset to a different reality but Seveneves is different. From the very beginning you are drawn into this world and the fate that befalls it. I am no science geek but I could easily believe the technology is possible; there is no need to take a leap of faith -you feel it really could happen. It also made you think about how humanity really would react in that situation.

As much as I felt immersed in the claustrophobic world of the first part, I struggled with the setup of the second part. It was harder to identify with the characters and their world, requiring much more concentration to work out the mechanics of the world they now inhabited. That being said, the book was still a fascinating look at a future Earth and all the technological, ethical and moral dilemmas such a future might entail.

You can follow Suzanne on Twitter: @suzanned

Victoria Emerson

Definitely a challenging read.

This was the first sci-fi novel that I have ever read, and I must say I'm not sure it was the best place to start. At 869 pages it was definitely a challenge.

The book is very well written and it is of epic proportions, but if you stick with it to the end you will certainly be rewarded.

Ian Tyreman

Like the descendants of the Seven Eves we are all very different. Whilst many people will find this book a fascinating page turner others (like me) will find it very heavy going.

A mysterious object collides with the moon setting in place a chain reaction of apocalyptic events. This means a few thousand humans escaping into space to set up a 'Cloud Ark' as Earth will soon be uninhabitable. This is a mammoth undertaking and survival raises many issues.

The final part of the book is set five thousand years into the future when advances mean that the remaining, but greatly changed human race attempt to return to earth.

This book was obviously well researched and the work of a talented author. That said I was unsure that it was for me but I like to step out of my comfort zone and try a novel that is not my usual thing. Unfortunately my initial misgivings proved to be true. I found Seveneves to be a real slog and several

times I was tempted to quit. As I thought not for me I'm afraid.