

# VALDOR: BIRTH OF THE IMPERIUM Free

REVIEW: Valdor: Birth of the Imperium by Chris Wraight. Valdor: Birth of the Imperium. Valdor: Birth of the Imperium (HB) (EN).



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Chris Wraight  
272 pages  
31 Mar 2020  
GAMES WORKSHOP  
9781789990751  
English  
Nottingham, United Kingdom



Second, let me lay out a bit of a note on the historical timeline, for those who might be newer to the setting. As mentioned, Valdor takes place after the Wars of Unification; during which the Emperor solidified Himself as the ruler of Terra. The premiere troops of this time were the first legions of genetically-enhanced soldiers, the Thunder Warriors. The Thunder Warriors were frightening in their martial prowess, yet mentally and sometimes genetically unstable, prone to outbursts of unmitigated, uncontrollable violence. As the Emperor set his sights upon the stars, he began work on another group of genetically-engineered soldiers to replace the Thunder Warriors; the Adeptus Astartes, aka the Space Marines everyone knows and loves. It is extremely difficult for even the best of authors to effectively put to paper what is going on in their heads. Such is not the case here. Alas, a good chunk of the book is told through the eyes of Uwoma Kandawire, Provost Marshal of the High Lords of Terra the Imperium has a Senatorum, head by High Lords, which oversee the largest branches of the Empire.

Wraight makes her intentionally flawed but idealistic. The Thunder Warriors were slaughtered without them knowing; and there are rumors that another army is being brewed up in ultimate secrecy. Kandawire dispatches her agents to investigate the latter; and decides to deposition Valdor himself to ascertain answers on the former. Also jammed into the proceedings is another storyline focusing on a genewright named Amar Astarte more on her later , and her role in the genetically-engineered soldiers being vat-grown in the bowels of the Imperial Palace currently under construction.

As mentioned above, Wraight nails his portrayal of Valdor. Stoic, melancholic, dry. A consummate warrior. One for whom duty is paramount. There were a few slips during the end where he came off a bit too sappy, but that is fine. Wraight understands that these characters are not overwhelmed by emotion; but hints at things like personal pride, etc. Even though they are memory-wiped, ghosts of things remembered flash briefly in the mind. It is such a hard balance to strike; which makes it regrettable that Valdor is relegated to being a supporting actor in his own show heck, he is not even seen until almost 30 pages in. Kandawire, as mentioned, is interesting in concept, but deeply flawed in execution. It simply makes no sense whatsoever. As for Amar Astarte, I am willing to bet that her entire existence was shoe-horned into the narrative at the last moment.

Her existence here contributes absolutely nothing. It is as though GW decided that one of the lore changes was going to be that she was the genius scientist who made the Space Marines, and we need to fit her in the book as well. It all culminates with action sequences that are beautifully written, yet completely arbitrary. The rest of the cast list is pretty small, and they do their parts admirably.

Samonas, the only other Custodes to get significant page time, is a nice addition; I really would have liked to have seen more of him. And finally, the real show-stealer is Ushotan, one of the Thunder Warrior Primarchs yes, you read that right.... Every appearance by him is a welcome addition. Now, we can talk about the lore changes. The Warhammer universe has grown exponentially over the past 30 years, so a lot of lore had to be developed, re-visited, nuked, etc.

However, a good rule of thumb is that lore should enhance, not detract from, the overall IP. Also, you should really evaluate as to whether the lore added makes sense when added to the bigger picture. First of all, they now have had an official name; the Legio Cataegis. This is fine. However, according to the new lore, they were also broken down into 20 legions, like the Space Marines, each of it with its own Primarch, like the Space Marines. Please select a store. Sold out. Help us improve this page.

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Also, you should really evaluate as to whether the lore added makes sense when added to the bigger picture. First of all, they now have had an official name; the Legio Cataegis. This is fine. However, according to the new lore, they were also broken down into 20 legions, like the Space Marines, each of it with its own Primarch, like the Space Marines. And each legion also has a speciality. Also, Ushotan is supposed to have at least some aptitude in the art of the siege; which renders the climactic battle even more ridiculous. Then, we get to our new character, Amar Astarte. No one is complaining that we get the chance to meet the genewright who was instrumental in creating them; it is just silly to now say that they were named after her in a casual display of irony. This book has really interesting background on the building of the imperium but it all feels a bit cold.

I think, given the size of the book actually pages - this entry is wrong too many perspectives and angles on events seem to cloud in. This leads to too many characters without enough background to build up much of

an emotional connection. Ironically, you find most emotional connection to the titular character who is largely devoid of it. The last half of the book is pretty solid, but the This book has really interesting background on the building of the imperium but it all feels a bit cold.

The last half of the book is pretty solid, but the cast bounces around a lot in the beginning making it a slow start which, at pages, means you're just getting into it when it finishes. An interesting Unification Era story. Tough ostensibly a story about Constantine Valdor, he only appears sparsely, with the majority of the pages taken up with side-characters. The main one of these is: Kandawire a female High Lord of Terra on an investigative mission related to the a mysterious battle at the end of the Unification Wars. Overall this was an interesting novel. It hinted, far more th An interesting Unification Era story.

It hinted, far more than it revealed, but firmly kept my attention and revealed a number of coole lore-tidbits that made the 40K world better as a whole. In all I'd have to say that this novel, despite a decent story, was far more of an set-piece or display of scenery withing the 40K timeline that a true story. So 4 stars with lots of cool details, but in the end just as much unanswered questions as answered hinted at. Dec 13, David rated it it was amazing. A really wonderful read. The characters are not really the focus here - they serve only to tell the story.

And what a story it is! Most of what we have learned over the years have been hearsay and stories of the past. In Valdor we get a true telling of the events that ocured in the final years of the Unification of Terra. This isn't your typical bolter porn, though there is action of course. Read this A really wonderful read. Read this to learn more about the mindset and ideals of the Emperor, Malcador, and of course Valdor. Read if you want to learn more about Thunder Warriors. As the starter book for a sub series on characters in the Horus Heresy, this was a solid story. Going all the way before the Crusade and the creation of the Space Marines or any Primarch was a great decision. The interplay between Valdor and a High Lord of Terra was handled very well.

We got to see the dynamics of Terra before everything goes kit over kettle. You get a great impression of the duty Valdor holds as a guardian of the Emperor and his motivations. I am looking forward to the next in t As the starter book for a sub series on characters in the Horus Heresy, this was a solid story. I am looking forward to the next in this series once it is announced.

Aug 15, Joseph Wilson rated it it was amazing. I'm biased, anything Unification Wars and Thunder Warrior is going to go great with me. I'm pretty meh on Custodian's and went into this knowing virtually nothing about them and nothing about Valdor. Author does well giving the normally static; statuesque imperial soldiers giving them some very much needed depth and character and a bit of the 'human' part of transhuman super soldier.

I was genuinely disappointed when the book was over, wanting more. I really hope if BL ever decides to do a 'history' style book Wraight is given or included on the project. Jan 09, Stefan Fergus rated it liked it.

Which, fine. But I thought there was space for more. May 09, Alex Metcalfe rated it it was amazing. I finished this book in one evening. From the start, it was a hit. Great character development and plot twists that gave the story real substance and bulk. I am a huge fan of the 40k lore but have become desensitized to the description of battles and combat. What I loved about Valdor was the intricacies of politics and administration revealed behind the burgeoning and nascent Imperial empire. Easily recommended! Sep 16, Robert rated it really liked it. Good book. No idea why they keep naming books after characters that don't dominate the narrative, particularly when the story is interesting anyway.

I can't say a lot without dropping spoilers so I'll make these short comments 1 it's a lore whore's paradise - loads of fluff bits, and 2 the premise of the protagonist existing just makes no sense in the context of the story being told - this glaring anomaly brings it down a star Good book. I can't say a lot without dropping spoilers so I'll make these short comments 1 it's a lore whore's paradise - loads of fluff bits, and 2 the premise of the protagonist existing just makes no sense in the context of the story being told - this glaring anomaly brings it down a star A short-ish novel of the early days of the Imperium, focusing on one of the many betrayals which started the Imperium down its - perhaps inevitable - path to the totalitarian dystopian nightmare it is in the 41st millennium.

Well worth a read, if you're interested in the Unification Wars, but you have to be pretty deep into the lore

to appreciate most of what's going on. Wraith continues to impress in the decidedly mixed bag of the Black Library stable. May 18, Richard rated it liked it Shelves: warhammer. An interesting look into one of the Imperium's earliest moments, but it is also vague in many ways as it tries to avoid showing too much of this mythical era. Despite being titled Valdor, and featuring the character, he did not feel like the center of the story and Kandawire makes for a more interesting protagonist more often than not.

Despite this, even she doesn't feature too heavily as the story moves around. Overall, it's interesting! It just falls a bit short. May 25, Patrick rated it liked it. An interesting peak into the end of Unification. Wraith is excellent as always but the short length of the book really hampered his ability to make you care about the characters. This is was especially disappointing because Wraith is a master of characterization but sadly his talents were not allowed to flourish. I'm glad I read it for the lore it reveals but it was not a very fun read. I truly enjoyed this book. I am not a 40K fan, my boyfriend is. An interesting look at the shift between conquering Terra and expanding beyond. Also insight in to Valdor and other of the Custodes, as well as those involved with creating the Thunder Warriors, Custodes and Astartes.

Finally a look in to the early stages of the Imperial Palace, Highlords of Terra, and the organizational growth of the Administratum. Jul 16, Fedor rated it liked it. It is a good book, but it took me so long to finish it that I will give it 3 stars. Ultimately, I feel that the writing was too heavy on smth, which made the book so hard for me to read, but I can't put my finger on it In the end - give it a try, it's certainly worth the time, just not for my taste Jun 16, Ashley rated it it was amazing Shelves: wh40k.

For a fan of 40K lore, this story delivers in spades. Unless you are a fan of that universe with a good knowledge of the background, I'm not sure that I could recommend this one, though. If you are: it's an absolute treat. Jun 18, Paul McClenaghan rated it really liked it. An interesting insight into the politics nad manoeuvring an the final stages of the unification wars. Jul 18, Bryan Moreton rated it it was amazing. This is such a great book. Its not for those unfamiliar with the universe, but for those who love it Its just such a great insight into the early imperium.

Cards on the table, I am fascinated by the unity wars, thunder warriors etc. This likely coloured my opinion. But nonetheless, epic book! There are no discussion topics on this book yet. Be the first to start one ».  
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REVIEW: Valdor: Birth of the Imperium by Chris Wraith - Grimdark Magazine

Publisher: Games Workshop. Age Range: Adult. Book theme: Space Opera. Author: Chris Wraith. Language: English. Street Date : March 31, TCIN : UPC : Description Book Synopsis Explore the history of one of the most well known heroes of the Imperium in this awesome new novel from Chris Wraith. Additionally, he has many Warhammer novels to his name, including the Warhammer Chronicles novel Master of Dragons, which forms part of the War of Vengeance series. Chris lives and works in Bradford-on-Avon, in south-west England. Report incorrect product info. Shipping options. Shipping details Estimated ship dimensions: 0. Return details This item can be returned to any Target store or Target. This item must be returned within 90 days of the in-store purchase, ship date or online order pickup. See return policy for details.

See the return policy for complete information. Dorn simply cannot defend everything. Any chance of survival now requires sacrifice, but what battles dare he lose so that others can be won? Is there one tactical stroke, one crucial combat, that could turn the tide forever and win the war outright? In the city of Queen Mab, nothing is quite as it seems. Pariah, spy and Inquisitorial agent Alizebeth Bequin is all of these things and yet none of them. An enigma, even to herself, she is caught between Inquisitors Gregor Eisenhorn and Gideon Ravenor, former allies now enemies who are playing a shadow game against a mysterious and deadly foe. Coveted by the archenemy, pursued by the Inquisition, Bequin becomes embroiled in a dark plot of which she knows not her role or purpose. For long years, the White Scars have fought for the Imperium, bringing worlds to compliance. But when a new project, to embed psykers

in the Space Marine Legions, seems likely to come to fruition, Jaghatai Khan must decide if he will comply. Listen to it because Chris Wraight returns to the Khan of Khans with a tale set at the height of the Great Crusade and showing the momentous decisions that, in some ways, led to the darkest events of the Horus Heresy.

Sanctioned because of his desire for knowledge, chastised, judged, and shattered to his very elements — there is much for the Crimson King to feel vengeful for. He seeks something, a fragment, the missing piece of himself that lies within the most impregnable place on the planet — the inner sanctum of the Imperial Palace. In the void and upon the worlds of Greater Ultramar, the battle for the Imperium continues. Intent on rebuilding his home realm and using it as a base to reconstruct the ravaged stellar empire of mankind, the returned primarch, Roboute Guilliman, proceeds with his war to drive Mortarion and his Death Guard Traitor Legion from the domain of the Ultramarines.

A swordsman without equal, the Phoenician has long studied the art of war and grows impatient to put his skills and those of his loyal followers to a true test. Now, accompanied by only seven of his finest warriors, he seeks to bring a rebellious world into compliance, by any means necessary. By: Josh Reynolds. Lord of the mystical and uncanny, Magnus the Red has long studied the ancient crafts of sorcery. A psyker without peer, save only for the Emperor himself, he commands his loyal followers of the Thousand Sons Legion in the Great Crusade, though also vigilant for any lost knowledge they might recover from the remains of dead human civilisations. Charged with protecting the Master of Mankind from all threats, within and without, their fearsome resolve is renowned throughout the galaxy, and their golden armour is the last thing that a would-be assassin or saboteur will ever see.

Constantin Valdor is the chief of the Emperor's Custodian Guard and is among the closest of His companions. As the wars of Unity come to their end, Constantin faces his greatest challenge, as dark deeds are required to pave Mankind's road to the stars. Delve into the era of the Unification Wars and discover Constantin Valdor's role in bringing about the Imperium of Mankind in an unmissable novel by Chris Wraight! Constantin Valdor. It is a name that brings forth images of heroism, honour and peerless duty. For it is he who commands the will of the Legio Custodes that most esteemed and dedicated cadre of elite warriors.

Clad in shining auranite, his fist clenched around the haft of his Guardian Spear, he is the bulwark against all enemies of the throne, within or without. What now for the nascent Imperium and what fate for its forgotten soldiers, its Thunder Warriors and armies of Unity? A new force is rising, one which shall eclipse all others and open the way to the stars. But change on Terra is seldom bloodless, and for progress to be ensured darker deeds are necessary. Written by Chris Wraight. Also apparently the emperor thought of the primarchs as sons? Those two things not only are out of character but they have books that address those issues. I get wanting to hint at the dark angels helping with the conflict but anyone who knows 30k will know that a Roman numeral I on the pauldron would be more of a name drop than the legion heraldry.

I really liked this novella, but given that I wanted to learn more about Valdor, I was disappointed. As a story about an event in the early part of the Imperium, it is very good, but Valdor features in less than half the book. The reader's performance was fantastic as always. Honestly was hoping for more about Valdor and have the book actually be about him instead of the slew of other characters who got far more attention I feel. I honestly feel the title is somewhat misleading to those wanting to know more about the man, rather than what's given in this one. While most of us already know the beginning of the Imperium proper: end of the Thunder Warriors, the Primarch project, the Legions it's nice to have a character perspective about these events in finer detail, especially through Constantine Valdor.

Performance was fantastic but could not save this bad book. Incredibly boring, book worst of the Imperium or Horus books I've read. I was hoping for more Lore about the old battles, a description of the battle between the thunder warrior and the custodes. I didn't learn anything I didn't already know. I wish more artistic licence was used towards the character development. The only real character with a story were ultimately inconsequential.

I loved it because one of the most hated characters in all of 40K is finally cast down from her Summit and portrayed as the villain she rightly is. Excellent narration and performance. As is the norm for Black Library works. The story was great. Very enlightening. I would advise not to introduce some to the grim dark with this however. A great book though for fans and players of 40k 30k and any one who loves the lore especially. Incredible just what I was looking for performance by characters was spot on and made you want to hear what happens next I highly recommend.

Valdor: Birth of the Imperium is a very difficult book to review and to describe. It is certainly one of the more important 40k books of late. To sum up, this is an important history book that will read like gold to the mature lore-fans while it disappoints the bolter porn audience. If you want lots of action, don't get this book as it is much more! To start off, the book is very unconventional in topic, delivery and format. I am pleased to say that it does all these successfully.

First, the book covers very early Imperium history and as such is a true rarity that has been much anticipated and perhaps much needed. The early history of 40k is truly fascinating and at this stage probably far richer than the current setting. The book truly hums of mystery - early Terra is a place that is utterly fascinating and very strange. There is so much amazing lore that I don't know where to begin. All I can say is that at this point, the best content of 40k might well reside in the past and is certainly worth more exploration Black Library, please. For lore-nerds, the book does not per se offer anything radical but is a very compact history anthology that brings clarity into the nebulous past. Even more strangely, the book is rather short. The length is an issue and there is so much that it could have contained but it covers one historical event quite dynamically. Second, the book format is equally very peculiar, because it truly reads like a history report.

This is something that will make lore fans jump for joy but those who want to read endless fantastical battle depictions will not find

this 'entertaining'. Considering myself as a more mature 40k fan, I am pleased with the format of the book. Chris Wraight was certainly the right man for the job and overall his writing cannot be criticized although his delivery is surprisingly formal and way less lyrical than on his many other books. This is understandable, because this is essentially an in-universe history book which very few fantasy settings could ever pull off. Third, the delivery is also very peculiar because as can be noticed, the book is narrated by several actors.

For most, the book reads like a conventional audio book with a single reader Steven Pacey while on many parts, it is essentially a small drama production with multiple readers, sound effects and filters. The delivery is very peculiar but it works; the drama parts are done with taste and moderation. They don't steal the show but contribute to it. At first, I was actually going to give the Performance less stars because the delivery felt a bit strange and I found Pacey's delivery too official, almost downright boring. Then I realized that the book truly is an epic account of fictional history and he with his relatively formal delivery honors this idea. Overall, *Valdor: Birth of the Imperium* is a peculiar book with a possibly monumental prediction.

The book is also peculiar in its format and delivery but somehow it all works! It is possible that I will still update this review one way or the other as this was just my initial feeling. Sadly though, GW seems to increasingly be forcing questionable radical leftwing ideology into it's lore. While this is not the most egregious example of this unfortunate trend, it's still jarring and negatively effects the story. All the most intelligent and powerful people, not previously unchangeably written as male eg. The premiere troops of this time were the first legions of genetically-enhanced soldiers, the Thunder Warriors. The Thunder Warriors were frightening in their martial prowess, yet mentally and sometimes genetically unstable, prone to outbursts of unnitigated, uncontrollable violence. As the Emperor set his sights upon the stars, he began work on another group of genetically-engineered soldiers to replace the Thunder Warriors; the Adeptus Astartes, aka the Space Marines everyone knows and loves.

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