

"By Scism Rent Asunder" by David Weber is book 2 of the Safehold series. Fans of military Sci-Fi or Alternate History ought to enjoy this book.

\_\_An aggressive alien species (the Gbaba) has destroyed the human federation. A remnant of survivors have fled to a distant part of the galaxy and have adopted primitive technologies. The colonists are brainwashed, given false memories and taught unscientific theology. After 900 years, The Church of God Awaiting has grown corrupt. Human communities fumble along at the technological level of 13th-century Muslims.

\_\_Then a robotic clone awakes after 900 years. The clone is Nimue Alban, a young woman who died in the final battle against the Gbaba. The clone has superhuman powers, and Nimue affirms her mission which is to recover humanity's former technologies, so that humans can seek vengeance from their nemesis the Gbaba.

\_\_The Medieval society in which she finds herself denies women political say-so. Nimue decides to configure herself as a tall male warrior, which she names Merlin.

\_\_Merlin journeys to Charis, manages to save the King's son from an assassination attempt. He aligns himself with Charis which is an island kingdom of merchant marines. He introduces Arabic numerals and encourages inventors and engineers, especially military innovators. Charis soon dominates Safehold's seas and trading routes.

\_\_The author populates this faraway world with dozens upon

dozens of intriguing characters. Their names are unfamiliar, but he includes a full cast list for most books in the series. There are exciting naval battles and land battles. The central theme is that technology overcomes false belief systems, which may be relevant today since our current power brokers refuse to acknowledge that humans are destroying the earth via climate change.

Book 1 - Off Armageddon Reef

Book 2 - By Scism Rent Asunder

Book 3 - By Heresies Distressed

Book 4 - A Might Fortress

Book 5 - How Firm a Foundation

Book 6 - Midst Toil and Tribulation

Book 7 - Like a Mighty Army

Book 8 - Hell's Foundation's Quiver

Book 9 - At the Sign of Triumph

Book 10 - Through Fiery Trials

Book 11 - ???

The Safehold series is highly recommended. Five stars.