

Sacramento Book Review



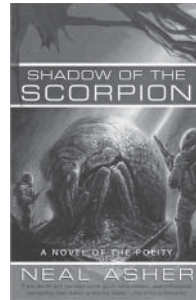
Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

Shadow of the Scorpion

By Neal Asher

Night Shade Books, \$14.95, 242 pages

In this prequel to Asher's Ian Cormac and Polity SF novels, readers are introduced to Cormac's formative years. Sliding back and forth between very young years and his early years serving the Polity's military, this novel lacks good storytelling. Cormac seems to appear, fully formed as a great thinker and leader without any true growth. Even in the youth Cormac bits, Asher's only nod to that apparent youthfulness is an inability of Cormac to understand big words.



Though full of action, this novel lacks the necessary element of suspense, rendering the action less exciting, more history than thriller. Add an overuse of prepositional phrases that make sentences bulky and awkward, and the book becomes so rocky in construction that it fails to draw the reader into the world. Fans of Asher will enjoy this addition to his cannon, but new readers will need to find the original books that garnered him acclaim or bypass his work altogether.

Reviewed by: John Ottinger III