



Thread



Venkatesh Rao
@vgr



Reading Terra Ignota by Ada Palmer, which a lot of people recommended

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Venkatesh Rao @vgr · Jul 29



Replying to @vgr

This is very good and surprisingly playful and fun for something so self-consciously erudite. Looked her up and not surprised she's a historian. This feels like a history book more than scifi.

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22



Venkatesh Rao @vgr · Aug 6



Okay initial reaction modified. Turned into a bit of a trudge. Not sure I'll be able to finish.

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7



Venkatesh Rao @vgr · Aug 6



The works building is great but the mannered style is both distracting and confusing with all the characters. And unclear what all the gender bending is for.



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**Venkatesh Rao** @vgr · Aug 8

Only at 22%. This is slow going. Fast-paced page-turner it's is not. The plot seems like an excuse for a leisurely tour of the worldbuilding, with plenty of digressions that serve no real plot purpose. It's like a rich dessert. Can't eat too much in one sitting.



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**Venkatesh Rao** @vgr · Aug 8

The framing device is the narrator mycroft addressing the far future from the near future. So we're effectively looking over the shoulder of a history writer. Technically complex and well-executed, but exhausting. Does transform exposition into something else though.



2



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**Venkatesh Rao** @vgr · Aug 11

This is science fiction of manners. Like Edith Wharton with flying cars.

I don't know if I can push through till the actual plot does something.



3



8

**Venkatesh Rao** @vgr · 10h

Ok ground to a halt and gave up. Just can't bring myself to care about this world and its people. Very skillful, but the overwrought worldbuilding kinda overwhelmed the thin plot a bit too much for me. And all the characters seem like stagey performers. Instagram influencer vibes



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**Venkatesh Rao** @vgr · 10h

Kinda sad. Wanted to like it. The flying cars idea was cool. If the balance of elements had been better I'd have kept going. I think where it lost me was probably the layers of meta-literary conceits.



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**muddletoes** @muddletoes · Jul 25

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Replying to @vgr

The Wikipedia entry gives one the sense of a worldbuilding that is perhaps deliberately hackneyed, so it will be interesting to learn what the attraction is.



Some accounts you follow often like this Tweeter

**Emmett Shear**  @eshear · 9h

...

Replying to @vgr

I loved Terra Ignota but never recommend it because I expect most people to have your reaction. It does build, there is a payoff, but you have to be into the slog. It's the Proust of sci-fi.



Followed by some Tweeters you follow

**shb** @himbodhisattva · Jul 25

...

Replying to @vgr

thinking about re reading it, and I just finished it a few weeks ago

 **Oliver** @Ol_Wall · Jul 29

...

What's the pitch?

**Kelly Digges** @kellydigges · Aug 6

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Replying to @vgr

I gave up after the second book. Will be curious what you think.

**Tenobrus** @tenobrus · Jul 25

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Replying to @vgr

it's so deeply fucking amazing it's hard to express



**coderintherye** @coderintherye · Jul 25

Replying to @vgr

Looking forward to your feedback on it!



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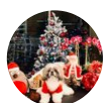
**Nikhil Punnoose**   @nikhilgp · Jul 25

Replying to @vgr

I thought the world building was exquisite, but when it sunk in that (mild spoilers) she was really biting the bullet on one of the core questions I was just not interested in reading the 4th book.



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**Nikhil Punnoose**   @nikhilgp · Jul 25

It's the kind of bullet biting you just don't see in "mainstream liberal" fiction any more though (I think with good reason) so you may find that interesting in itself.



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Show replies

**The Baron** @BaronGreen_Back · Jul 25

Replying to @vgr

It is excellent.



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