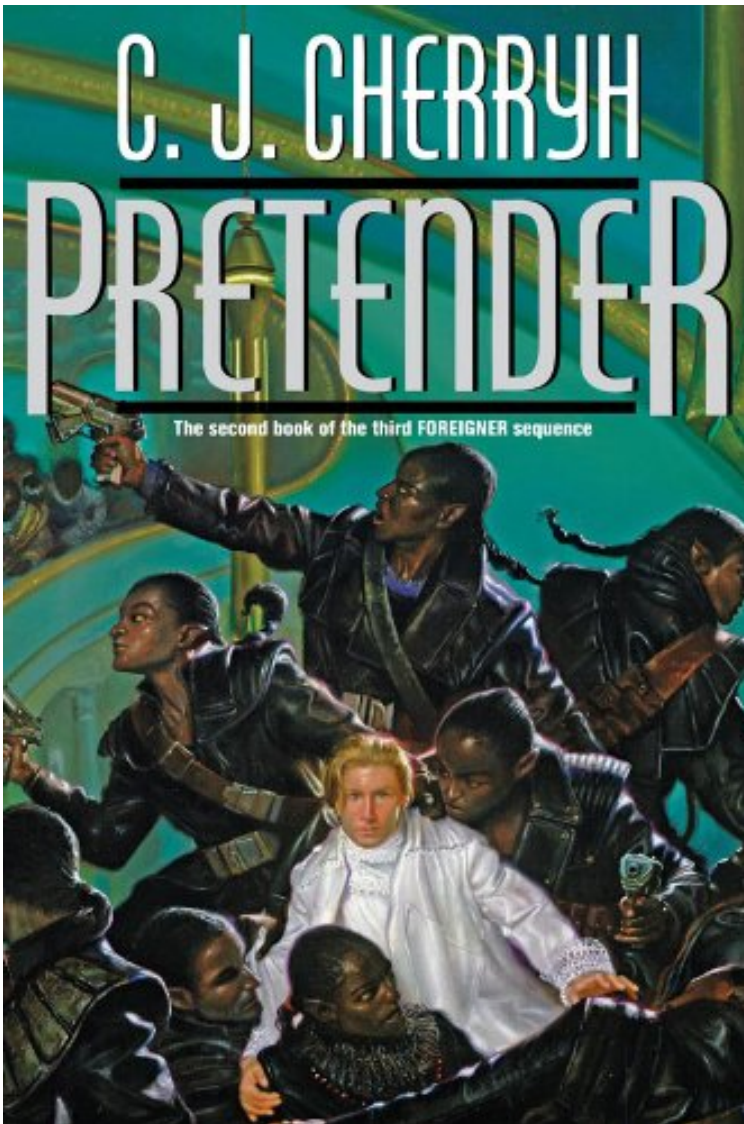


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Pretender



Par C. J. Cherryh
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Par C. J. Cherryh : Pretender before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pretender:

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Description : Description du produitThe epic tale of the human survivors of a lost spacecraft, marooned on a planet inhabited by a hostile alien race, follows the civilization's rise from the age of steam through early space flight to confrontations with other alien species in distant sectors of space.

Prsentation de l'diteurThe eighth novel in CherryhsForeigner space opera series, a groundbreakingtale of first contact and its consequencesExhausted from a two-year rescue mission in space, the crew of the starship Phoenix return home to find disaster: civil war has broken out, the powerful Western Association has been overthrown, and Tabini-aiji, its forceful leader, is missing. In a desperate move, paidhi Bren Cameron and Tabini's grandmother Ilisidi, the aiji-dowager, along with with Cajeyri, Tabini's eight-year-old heir, make planetfall and succeed in reaching the mainland. The brilliant and forceful Ilisidi seeks refuge at the estate of an old ally, and Tabini-aiji arrives at the door.As word of Tabini's whereabouts circulates, clans

allied with Tabini descend upon the estate, providing a huge civilian presence that everyone involved hopes will deter impending attacks by the usurpers. But as more and more supporting clans arrive, Bren finds himself increasingly isolated, and it becomes clear that both his extremely important report of alien contact in space, and even his life, rest on the shoulders of only two allies: Ilisidi and Cajeyri. Can one elderly ateva and an eight-year-old boy himself a prime target for assassination protect Bren, a lone human involved in a civil war that most atevi believe he caused? The long-running *Foreigner* series can also be enjoyed by more casual genre readers in sub-trilogy installments. *Pretender* is the 8th *Foreigner* novel, and the 2nd book in the third subtrilogy. From the Paperback edition. From Publishers Weekly Starred . In volume eight of Cherryh's masterful *Foreigner* sequence (*Destroyer*, etc.), Tabini, the deposed ruler of the atevi home world, represents humanity's best hope of survival on this alien planet and the atevi's own best chance of maintaining independence in a galaxy grown suddenly crowded with potential enemies. In order to retake control of his government, Tabini draws together various allies, allowing himself to serve as a possible target for assassination. Tabini must delicately balance the sensibilities of deeply conservative factions against the absolute need to push forward with the technological innovations that human beings have introduced to the atevi world. Human diplomat Bren Cameron, meanwhile, must simply stay alive, if only to prove to the skeptical atevi that other alien races do indeed exist and are headed their way. As usual, Cherryh alternates long stretches of brilliant, often oblique dialogue and complex political maneuvering with shorter interludes of violent, well-executed action. A science fictional equivalent of George R.R. Martin's *Song of Ice and Fire* sequence, this series represents contemporary SF at its finest. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Booklist The eighth book in the *Foreigner* saga finds Bren Cameron needing to exert all his diplomatic skills and call on all his allies among the atavi just to stay alive. Two candidates for the rulership of that formidable race are squaring off for a deadly and total confrontation, and the influence of foreigner Cameron is considered at least partly responsible for the situation. Meanwhile, Bren and some of the atavi are aware that another, deadlier alien race is emerging from the starlanes to disrupt the political and military calculations of all factions to date. Cherryh makes no pretense of keeping her sagas simple enough for readers to begin them this far into the sequence, but on the other hand, her world building, aliens, and suspense rank among the strongest in the whole sf field. May those strengths be sustained indefinitely, or at least until the end of *Foreigner*. Roland Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved