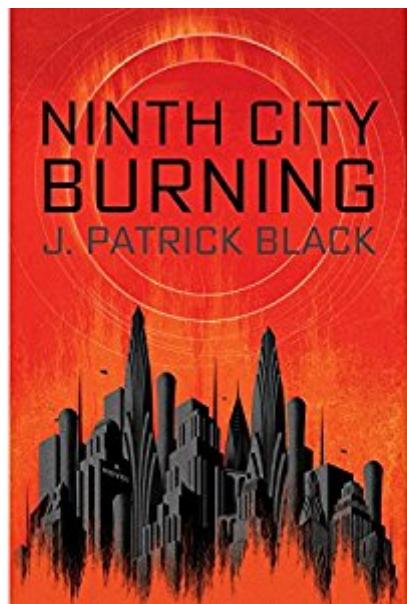


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# Ninth City Burning



## **Synopsis**

Centuries of war with aliens threaten the future of human civilization on Earth in this gripping epic science fiction debut. We never saw them coming. Entire cities disappeared in the blink of an eye, leaving nothing but dust and rubble. When an alien race came to make Earth theirs, they brought with them a weapon we had no way to fight, a universe-altering force known as thelemity. It seemed nothing could stop it - until we discovered we could wield the power, too. Five hundred years later, the Earth is locked in a grinding war of attrition. The talented few capable of bending thelemity to their will are trained in elite military academies, destined for the front lines. Those who refused to support the war have been exiled to the wilds of a ruined Earth. But the enemy's tactics are changing, and Earth's defenders are about to discover this centuries-old war has only just begun. As a terrible new onslaught looms, heroes will rise from unlikely quarters and fight back.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ninth City Burning by J. Patrick Black is an epic sci-fi fantasy story line. As well as his debut novel. This book is over 500 pages, with a great story that has me amazed at how Black put together this complex detailed world. Ninth City Burning is set in a post-apocalyptic Earth, where they have been fighting an alien invasion that promises to destroy them. It is a world filled with magic & mentors to teach the young children, who have those magical or scientific abilities to help defend their realms. The premise: 500 years ago an alien race (Valentines) invaded Earth, bringing about mass destruction, using a magical weapon called thelemity. Trying to rise up from disaster, the survivors

of Earth discovered that some of their people can now use that magic. Bringing about training the Legion military, and teaching those with magic how to use theelernity to create a new world, and defend it. For 500 years, the Valentines have had many attacks on Earth, but on a smaller scale. However, that is about to change, as the aliens are preparing a massive attack that will destroy everyone on Earth. Will the youngsters who have been learning to handle their powers be able to help the veterans and save Earth? This is a difficult review to write, as there are so many scientific details throughout the story. As in any epic fantasy, the first novel tends to explain the world and confuse us along the way. J. Patrick Black has created a wonderful concept in a fascinating world, not to mention some wonderful characters. I will say that this did drag a bit, especially with all the descriptive details. I also thought that Black though giving us some great characters, had so many, that it took me almost half the book to learn who was who.

Ninth City Burning by J. Patrick Black is a recommended science fiction tale, highly recommended and suited for YA audiences. Seven young narrators tell the story in first person of Earth's fate in this four part novel. The narrators are are: Jax, Torro, Vinneas, sisters Rae and Naomi, Kizabel, and Imway. An alien race, nicknamed "Romeo" or the "Valentines," wants to take over the Earth. The war began 500 years ago when "Romeo" brought a weapon that is a universe-altering force known as thelemity. Entire cities have been destroyed and the success of the aliens seemed inevitable until it is discovered that there are people who are called "fontani," who can produce thelemity, or "revenni." These individuals can use thelemity to impose their will upon the world, but more importantly they can fight back against Romeo using this magic/technology hybrid weapon. Ninth City Burning is the first book in a new series. This initial introduction to the story, young protagonists, and the war borrows numerous ideas from other, classic sci fi novels. It has a very slow start that may discourage some readers, but those who stick with it and keep track of the narrators will appreciate the end and likely be anxiously anticipating the second book in this purposed three book series. It can be humorous and playful at times, especially with the pop culture references. I was really looking forward to reading Ninth City Burning, but I did have a few issues with the novel. Those who enjoy YA fiction and frequently read it may not feel the same way. I firmly believe that the market audience for Ninth City Burning is YA, especially based the age of the protagonists, although most of the characters don't exactly talk like they are tweens/teens.

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