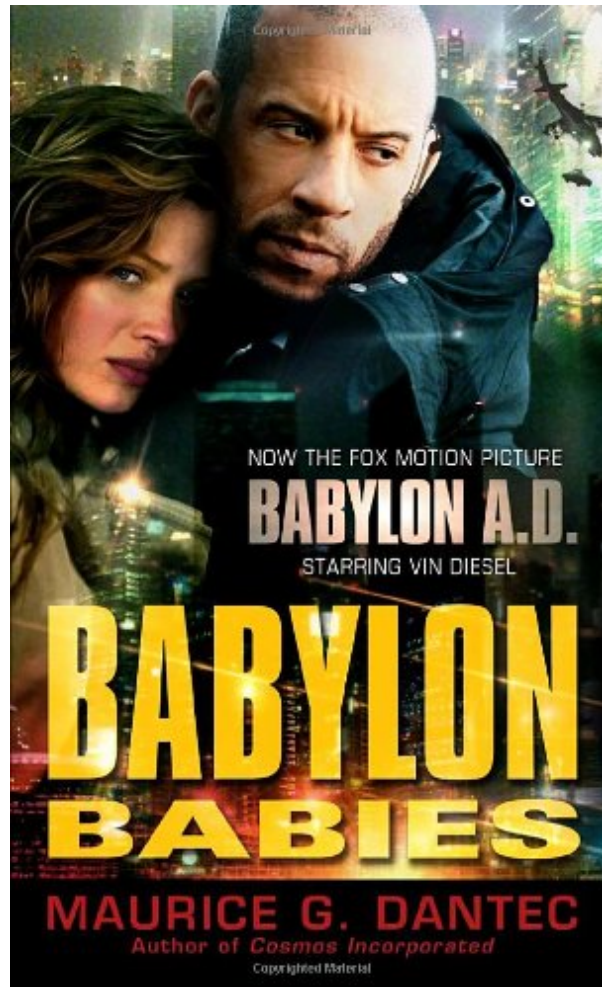
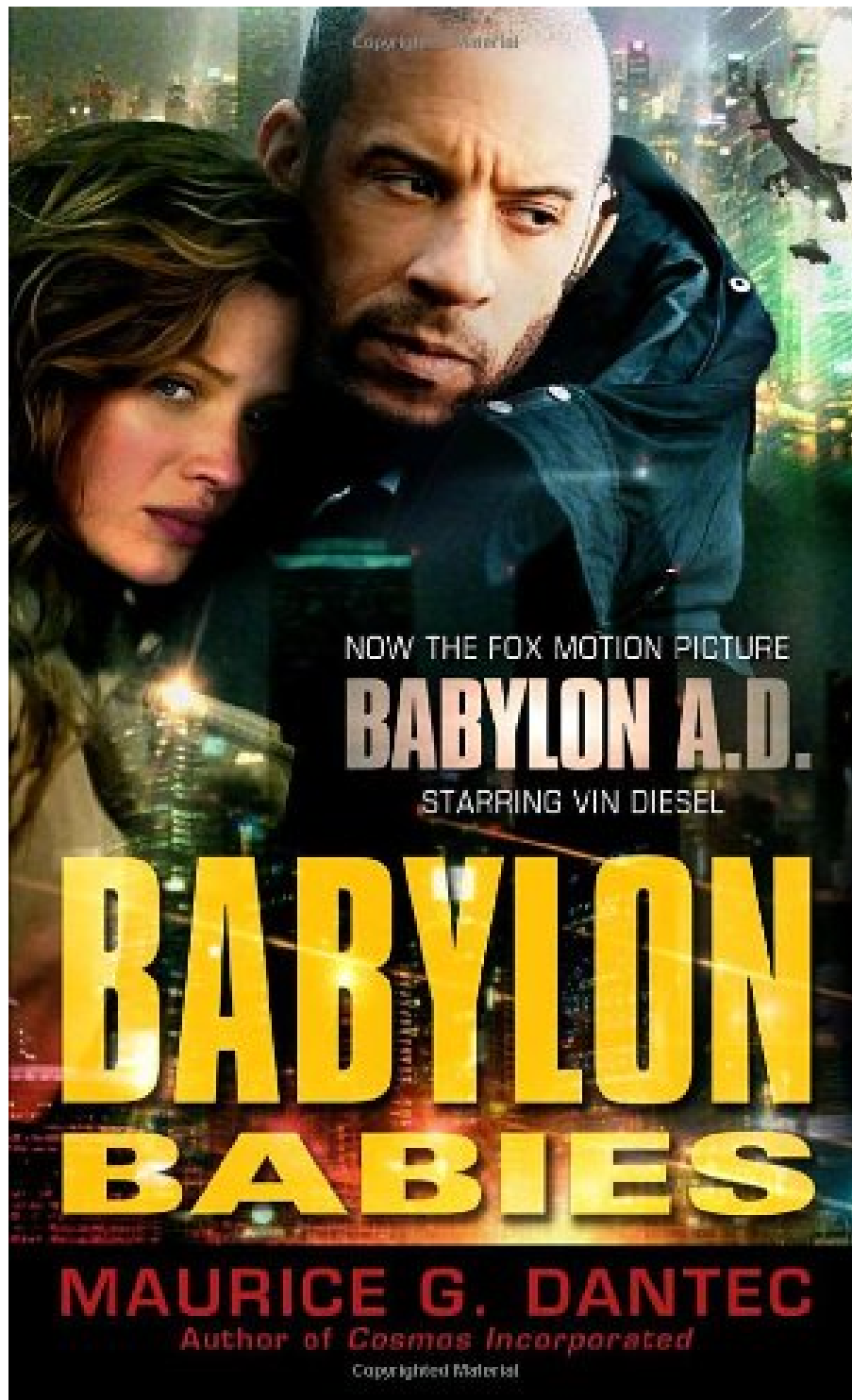


# BABYLON BABIES BY MAURICE G DANTEC



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From Publishers Weekly

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Review

"Dantec has created a compelling story with evocative ideas that may prove even more illuminating with subsequent readings, and a reader who undertakes the arduous journey from cover to cover will be rewarded with an entertaining tale." Arthur Bangs [sffworld.com](http://sffworld.com)

"Dantec is a literary revolution." Science Fiction

" *Babylon Babies*, an under-appreciated novel by French punk rocker turned writer Maurice G. Dantec, deserves a wider audience, and not just because its author is frequently mentioned in the same breath as Michel Houellebecq (and definitely not because the book is being adapted into a movie starring Vin Diesel)... what makes this novel (translated by Noura Wedell) so haunting is its vision of a near future in

which society has fractured along every possible national, tribal and sectarian fault line." New York Times Book Review

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–The New York Times Book Review

In the hidden “flesh and chip” breeding grounds of the first cyborg communities, Toorop, a hard-boiled Special Forces veteran of Sarajevo, is hired by a shadow organization to escort a young woman, Marie Zorn, from Russia to Canada. But what appears to be a routine job is anything but. After completing the mission, Thoorop discovers that Marie is no ordinary girl. A genetically altered pawn in an elaborate plot, Marie is carrying a dark secret that could spell destruction for all humankind—if Thoorop doesn’t track her down before it’s too late.

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“Intense.”

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## Most helpful customer reviews

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Toorop is a first-rate character, but the rest of Dantec's universe is not quite so winning

By D. Beatty

I read this book after seeing the movie Babylon A.D. I knew it was going to be a "different" read after getting it through interlibrary loan and finding it published by semiotext(e) under the MIT Press. Just Google semiotext and have a look at their eclectic offerings.

The movie is only okay - it really seemed to be lacking in story and character development. I happen to like Vin Diesel and can be satisfied sometimes with mediocre sci-fi movies so it was fine for me.

As a fast-paced tome of more than 500 pages employing a high-level vocabulary, I quickly found that the book has a lot more to say than the movie, which is only a shadow of the book and deviates from it quite a bit.

As for the book, I was drawn in instantly even though I had no prior conception that I'd actually like the book - unlike some books where it takes me a few chapters to decide if I'm going to like it or not. With this one, you'll probably know right away, and your reaction will probably be pretty strong one way or the other.

I found Cornelius Hugo Toorop to be an interesting and engaging character, and I'd be happy to read a whole series of books about him - an aging dope-smoking almost-Muslim intellectual mercenary killer of Central Asian wars with the strategic brain of a general but without the ambition or coldness of a warlord, who is drawn into a vision quest that leads him to improbable yet sentimental fatherhood.

As for the big plot, even though you can tell what's coming if you pay any attention, it draws you along and keeps you turning pages to find out how things will play out to their conclusion. The level of drama and revolution in the climax for the characters doesn't translate fully to the reader - but it remains satisfying. The most satisfying element for me was the evolution of the main character to his next stage of life, coinciding with the next stage of human evolution itself, although I felt somewhat dissatisfied with the psychotropic vision quest of Toorop - it fits well in the world created by Dantec, but it seemed a bit stunted and slightly artificial as a vehicle for Toorop's evolution.

And while some people surely hate it, I liked Dantec's technobabble acid-trip-esque writing style, to a point - it carried me into another strange parallel world that was sci-fi, cyberpunk, and tripped-out. The impatient, conventional, or fledgling reader will likely find it indigestible. If you liked Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange, you might like this.

There were too many pages spent on characters too strange or flat to connect to, although they seemed to exist only as vehicles for advancement of story and not so much in interest for them. Also a bit too much writing was spent in trying to explain or describe the inexplicable/indescribable just so you get a sense of how inexplicable/indescribable it is supposed to be without really believing it.

Sexuality is a central theme, as is post-apocalyptic destruction by religious sects, motorcycle gangs and other strange chaotic denizens of Dantec's weird creation. Oh, and graphic language exists throughout - so this is probably not the best choice for a junior high reading circle.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

excellent book

By Melanie A. Fisher

I enjoyed this book, makes you do some thinking, even if it's an action/adventure book.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Page turner thats verbally a mess

By Timothy S. Chamberlain

For anyone that might think this book has anything to do with the movie Babylon AD, the movie merely borrows some names of characters. The writing style - or maybe I should say the translation style - is a mess. All these phrases that add up to little more than nothing. There are good guys and bad guys, there is mysticism, there is an almost empty mystery at its core. But, it is a page turner. But let's be clear: the center of this world is Canada and the girl/woman that is the "package" is anything but an innocent angel. The male character whose journey we follow is a mercenary with a heart of gold.

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