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The Lost Starship (Lost Starship Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Ten thousand years ago, a single alien super-ship survived a desperate battle. The vessel's dying crew set the AI on automatic to defend the smashed rubble of their planet. Legend has it the faithful ship continues to patrol the empty battlefield, obeying its last order throughout the lonely centuries. In the here and now, Earth needs a miracle. Out of the Beyond invade the New Men, stronger, faster and smarter than the old. Their superior warships and advanced technology destroy every fleet sent to stop them. Their spies have infiltrated the government and traitors plague Earth's military. Captain Maddox of Star Watch Intelligence wonders if the ancient legend could be true. Would such an old starship be able to face the technology of the New Men? On the run from killers, Maddox searches for a group of talented misfits. He seeks Keith Maker, a drunken ex-strikefighter ace, Doctor Dana Rich the clone thief stuck on a prison planet and Lieutenant Valerie Noonan, the only person to have faced the New Men in battle and survived to tell about it. Maddox has to find a place hidden in the Beyond and bring back a ship no one can enter. If he fails, the New Men will replace the old. If he succeeds, humanity might just have a fighting chance |

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Customer Reviews

What I would have liked to know before I bought this book.(Minor Spoiler Warning)1. What type of book is it: adventure, action, drama, etc? Initially I thought it would be a military sci-fi space opera. It is not. This is a sci-fi space adventure.2. What is the story about, in general? The story is about the difficulties Agent Maddox and his team face as they search for a legendary ship that might have the technology to give humanity a fighting chance against the unstoppable New Men.3. What/Who is the target audience? Teenagers and young adults seem to be the target audience. There is something for adults as well, but not much. On top of that, those that like space-adventures might find the book enjoyable.4. How is the proofreading? It is pretty good. I saw only two errors and I think they were more kindle format problems than actual editing and proofreading mistakes.5. Is there character development? Yes and no.Romance wise, this volume leaves a lot to be desired. Any romance was abrupt, badly implemented and uninteresting. There was no build up to it. There was no growth. It felt very superfluous. On other character aspects, I am well satisfied. None of the protagonists are automatically perfect. They have serious emotional issues, insecurities, desires, crippling faults and manias. The development of trust between the protagonists follows an impressively realistic timeline of character evolution steps. In short, character development gets its due in this book. It is not perfect (because nothing is), but better than a lot of attempts I've read.Antagonists are incredibly one dimensional and illogical. They are immensely powerful, but don't use their abilities effectively throughout the story. Also, their dialogue is remarkably dull.6. Are the characters likable? The characters, as individuals, are more interesting than they are likable. I couldn't quite empathize with any of them. I did enjoy that most of them are three dimensional. They have good points and bad points. They have physical characteristics that set them apart and which speak about their origins and dispositions. They have certain mentalities that are specific to the character in question. Some of the characters have particular speech patterns that allow you to identify who is talking without having identifiers. That's very well done.As part of a group, the characters are very interesting. Story character synergy flowed well. With the exception of romance, character conflicts were very believable. Sometimes they got a little too wordy, but not particularly uninteresting.7. Does the story keep its pacing? The story keeps its pacing for a lot of the read. It rushes like a runaway train at the end and at some other story points. It's like, pacing wise, everything goes well for 95 percent of the book. The remaining five percent is not merely 'off pace' from the rhythm the author established, but ridiculously 'off pace'.8. Do you have to suspend

disbelief? Well, you're going to have to decide if my logic is faulty or not. The enemy has been created far too powerful for it to be held back by human capabilities and numbers. I think the author went much too overboard on this. The antagonists in this book can: subvert human warships and plant them AT EARTH, have infiltrated the highest levels of critical agencies on the planet (including Fleet and Intelligence), control vast wealth within human space, have sensors that can track the tiniest ships in a vast galaxy, have enough influence to manipulate critical components of Earth defenses on a whim, are ruthless and intelligent, have many warships (not as many as humans but given the differences in capabilities...) and are physically superior in every way. Imagine Khan, from Star Trek, multiplied by a billion, immensely rich, with a vast intelligence network and with Borg or Fluid Space alien technology. Considering all of this, there is absolutely no reasonable way that the protagonists should win. Earth has no advantages it can exploit that might hold the New Men back. Reasonably speaking, human space should have fallen to the New Men before the protagonist's mission was complete. Why don't the New Men cleanse humanity? No reason. That's it. We can speculate about it, but we don't know.

9. Is the book worth the asking price? I paid \$3. That's smack in the middle of a standard ebook price and fairly cheap. In conclusion: This is a sci-fi adventure that requires significant suspension of disbelief. The antagonists are incredibly overwhelming in their capabilities and similarly underwhelming in their use of said capabilities. This is contradicting and unreasonable given what we learn about them. The protagonists are pleasantly three dimensional and feel quite real except for the clumsy romance attempts. The pacing is pretty quick and engrossing, with an artistic thinner thread of hope as the story develops. At times, though, pacing is abandoned and the story timeline leaps forward, glossing over battles and engagements. Some readers will not enjoy those abrupt leaps. The proofreading is above average and well done. The price is great at \$3. If you look for flaws you'll find them, but at the same time the reader might find a generally fun read with interesting characters. This is a solid book. 3.2 Stars

It doesn't have to be 800 pages of thought-provoking deep hardcore sci-fi to be a good book when it's got to be interesting emotional fun and entertaining. I don't have to spend half of my time looking into dictionaries or science journals to figuring out what the hell he's talking about. While I enjoy my Marines with boots on the ground and shooting aliens I also enjoy the Intrigue of governments and alien governments as well as the interactions of fellow soldiers Shipmates trying to survive and achieve their goals. I enjoyed this book immensely.

Nice story, although it is a bit too predictable with characters that are bordering on one-dimensional.

Which in general I don't mind - that can make for good reading to as long as the language flows in a good way (disclaimer - English isn't my primary language). The writer repeatedly highlights physical attributes in a way that I feel gets in the way of the story - starting in the first paragraph, where the hero's muscles are described as "strings of steel writhed upon his lean frame". Not necessarily a problem if used sparingly, but it isn't - after a time it becomes a bit annoying, detracting from the story, when it is repeated over and over again. As a reader, you don't get to know the characters that well - there are minor deviations from background provided when the characters are introduced as the story progresses (with a few exceptions). The same applies to the bad guys, the New Men - they are supposed to be geniuses and way beyond humans, but never seem to be more than James bond villains constantly declaring that they all shall die (for the nth time after escaping the previous ambush). Which may be by design, but I would expect them to be more elegant and evolved than that. Then again, different strokes for different folks. I've found the writing of Jay Allan (Crimson Worlds) and Evan Currie (Odyssey series) to much more of my taste with regards to language. Leaving the language to the side, the background story is quite good. While reading book 2 I realized that the book reminds me of Star Trek (the first TV-series) in the plot, the way characters are described etc. Again, not necessarily a bad thing, but sum of all this is that I won't buy the third book. Despite this I'm prepared to give the book three stars.

Interesting plot and premise, but could have been better researched and written on many levels. Without giving too much away, the plot draws from a lot of great science fiction, mixing in both genetically altered "superhumans" and alien technology. However, the background on all of this hasn't been thought out enough. Also the author's understanding of technology, the R&D process and what this might lead to in the future seems to be a bit off, leaving me as a reader "disbelieving" or "challenging" the storyline and the information given therein. There is too much of a mixup of the current state of technology with a future hundreds of years from now, where things should be REALLY different. This, of course, makes it more easy to write a fast-paced plot with little or no need to explain how and why things work, but it detracted from my reading pleasure. The fast-paced plot in itself also meant that character development was given lip-service at best. We don't get a "feel" for a lot of the characters here, and so we are left not caring about what happens to most of them. A part of the storyline is about the main character building a team, which has to work together well in order to succeed. In the real world that means you need to know and trust each other, which requires background knowledge and lots of interaction. I can accept that this can happen slowly

throughout the storyline, but here it hardly happened at all. The author builds a good foundation for the future series, however, so I'm going to look into the next one also.

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