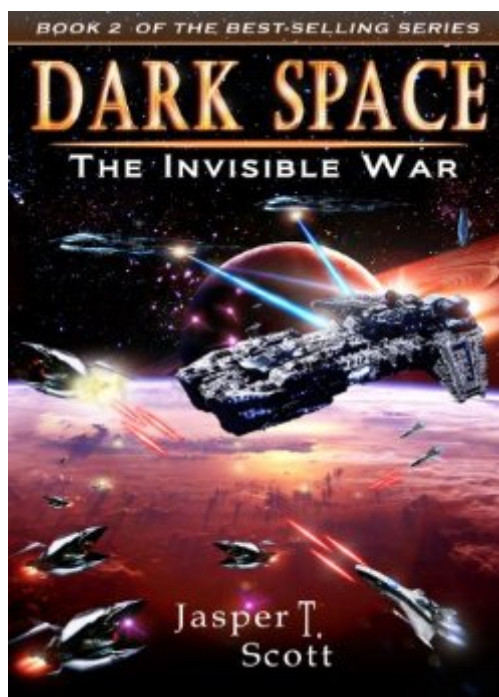


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Dark Space (Book 2): The Invisible War



Synopsis

Book 2 of the Best-Selling Space Opera **THEIR SHIP IS DAMAGED . . .** Ethan Ortane has just met his long lost son, Atton, but the circumstances could have been better. After a devastating bio-attack and the ensuing battle, they've fled Dark Space aboard the Defiant to get away from the crime lord, Alec Brondi, who's just stolen the most powerful vessel left in the fleet, a five-kilometer-long gladiator-class carrier called the Valiant. **THEY ARE LOW ON FUEL . . .** They need reinforcements to face Brondi, but beyond Dark Space, the comm relays are down, and they are low on fuel. **AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT** With Brondi behind them, they can't go back, but Sythian Space is fraught with entire fleets of cloaked alien ships. They can't leave the last human sector in the galaxy to the crime lords, so they must cross Sythian Space in a damaged, undermanned cruiser with no cloaking device. Making matter worse, trouble is brewing aboard the Defiant, dropping their chances of survival from slim . . . to none.

Book Information

File Size: 1051 KB

Print Length: 372 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Anthem Press; 6th edition (January 13, 2014)

Publication Date: January 13, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00E3FFX0K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #21,668 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #75 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Cyberpunk #85 inÂ Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Cyberpunk #112 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Metaphysical & Visionary

Customer Reviews

I have enjoyed the first two books in these series. I had some concerns with believability in the first

book, but the Author has stepped up his writing with this installment. The story is good, the characters are believable, fallible, and (mostly) human in situations I could easily image for any space faring story. The story line has been expanded to include more of the back story and no longer only follows one character. The editing is quit good. I only notice one or two mistakes. The book does end abruptly in the middle of the story, which is why I only rated it 4 stars instead of 5. I look forward to reading the next book when it is released.

The plot twists are amazing! I enjoyed reading it. BUT; the characters become less likable than in the first novel. Ethan was a nice bad guy, like Han Solo, a smuggler with a heart of gold, but in this novel he becomes a leader not worth following, a heartless dictator. Atton was a nice boy in the first novel, in this one he is just a pragmatic amoral survivor. And Alara in the first novel was a beautiful loving girl, but in this one she discovers she was/is in love with a married man (Ethan) and she regrets her love. So, while the plot keeps you in acute suspense, you beguin to care less and less for the fate of the characters. If the aliens end up eating Ethan, who is now a heartless dictator, we will not cry, it is not a tragedy. If Alara never sees again Ethan, it is better, since she regrets loving him and he is married to another woman. And if Atton dies during his mind probe, it is no great loss of this pragmatic amoral survivor who behaves in an insulting manner to Alara. The great assets of this author are his plots, but he needs to build his characters with redeeming or lovable characteristics and as he builds his plots, he needs to pay attention to the feelings of his characters. When you read what is happening to them there is no feel of tragedy, because there is no background to feel affliction, for example, Ethan is married to Destra, but they never think of each other, they never miss each other, they never feel melancholic remembering the good times together, so, their separation is no big deal, if they never see each other again, nobody feels bad about this.

Stayed up all night reading both Dark Space and this second part of the trilogy, Dark Space: The Invisible War. Jasper Scott pulls you into his multi-layered world with a bevy of well-developed characters. We have our hero, Ethan, while a pirate, an ace pilot and strategist, is really just your everyday guy trying to make a living with a bounty on his head. Of course Ethan has a beautiful, violet-eyed co-pilot, young enough to be his daughter, who thinks she loves him but he, a man of honor and principle, still loves his wife, Destra and son Atton. Then we have our villian, Alec Brondi, looking like a squashed potatoe, smart, brutal, with no scruples and the Napoleon complex hunting Ethan. Ethan and Brondi's private war is played against the backdrop of a greater war, the last surviving humans fighting aliens. However, the aliens, the Gors, are a humaniod race who are

slaves to an insectoid race, the Sythians. But are Gors, represented by Tova and Roan, really slaves or just telling our humans that? Between space battles, jumping through gates, slave chips, and slave armies, I cannot wait to find out what happens to our motley crew of characters next.

Those of you who have read my reviews in the past know that I only review a book if it's worth reading. With that I could have got book 2 free for a good review. But I felt that the book was worth buying. Again I cannot even understand how a story can come from the mind of an author. This book is well done in the style of my favorite author Steven King. I put this story against other great space stories. I don't know how to say it without sounding like blowing my horn, but having taken speed reading classes (2) at the local community college, and having had a Kindle for four years, without counting I can safely say I have read 400 or more books some short some in one day. The point is I might have felt like maybe have only reviewed fifteen of those books. This being one of them. I waited to review after the second book to make sure it was worth the money spent. I am retired with bad heart and my Kindle is with me always. I don't like to spend my time writing reviews except when a story grabs me and I can't wait to get to the next book. I have stopped at many first books, not willing to buy any sequels. Sorry to run on but this story is worth it.

I enjoyed the first Dark Space book, so despite some misgivings about some of the reveals at the end, I decided to go ahead and see how things unfolded in the second. It's not your usual swashbuckling-adventurer-in-space kind of story, though it does have bits of that here and there to a certain degree; it's got a few more twists and turns that deviate from what I initially expected from looking at the covers or even just reading the description. There's more world-building in this book than in the first, expanding *a lot* on some of what was established toward the end of the first book. The story in the first book was a bit more focused on one main character versus one antagonist, set against the bleak backdrop of a smaller *world*, as it were. This second tome shifts the story to encompass a larger set of characters as the story plays out in a much larger-scale world. It's quite the change in tone from the first book - it might be jarring to some, depending on their expectations from when they first encountered the series. This book also jumps back and forth between timelines, following the main protagonists, as well as slowly building the back story through one of the secondary characters. It's paced well and reads well, and there are some nice twists that come during the latter parts of the book that make you go "I didn't see that coming". Nothing jaw-dropping, but pretty entertaining for sure. The book as a whole is definitely entertaining enough to warrant checking out, and even if I was a bit apprehensive about this one in the beginning, I'm glad I read

through it, and I'm looking forward to reading the third installment in the series.

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