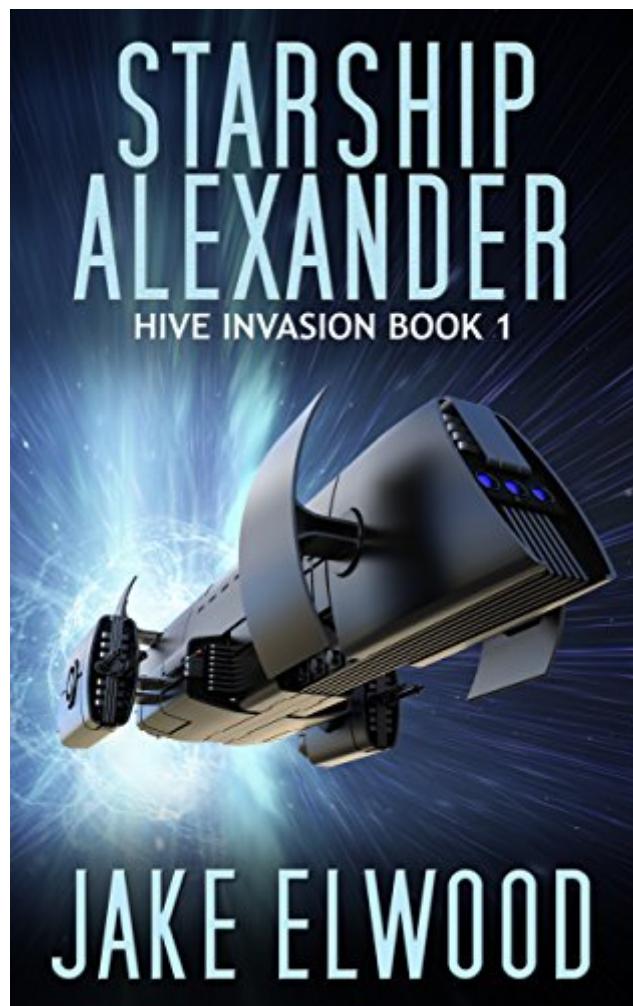


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Starship Alexander (Hive Invasion Book 1)



Synopsis

A washed-up captain. A worn-out ship. A crew of green cadets. And they're Earth's only hope. The Alexander is the last true warship, a relic from the days of interstellar war. She's destined for the scrapyard, and her captain, Richard Hammett, is about to retire. Their last mission is a training run with a ship full of cadets. It's supposed to be a routine hop through a wormhole Gate. But Gates have been going offline, one after another, and Hammett knows in his bones it means trouble. The kind of trouble only a real warship can handle. Defying orders, he takes the Alexander through another Gate, and puts the ship smack dab in the path of an alien invasion. Now a captain at the end of his career will have to take dozens of terrified cadets and forge them into a crew of warriors, because the Alexander is all that stands between the Earth and the swarming ships of the Hive.

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Customer Reviews

Jake Elwood's "Starship Alexander" has all the trappings of a grand saga. The fact that it's played out in an interstellar arena makes no difference. This could be amongst the purple sage or some

historical landmark in ancient China. Elwood creates several powerful characters, but the chief is Capt. Richard Hammett, a relic of a bygone era just like his aging starship. Reminds me a bit of Christopher Nuttall's "The Arc Royal." But the similarities end there. Hammett faces no demons, just the prospect of life after the military of finding purpose outside the sterile passageways of a metal ship surrounded by the lack of light and atmosphere. The novel begins with the Alexander headed out on a shakedown run with nearly all of its crew a bunch of swabs from basic training. The captain also gets a young woman as his commander. She's good at her job. But her job thus far has been pushing paper and learning how to navigate the political realm of the admiralty. She shines at the leveraged influence required of bureaucrats, but she has zero ship-board experience. The three-month expedition is designed to give her some credibility in her climb up the ranks. She immediately uses her power as a senior officer to alienate members of the crew. She doesn't care. She feels she holds the high ground. Her desires justify her means. Future conflict in the novel has been established. Elwood moves the story forward quickly, even if I'm not with this review. Almost immediately problems in human-controlled space pop up. The most distant "gates" used by starships to slip from one universe to the next have inexplicably shut down. Hammett and the Alexander head into the ether to check out the situation.

"Starship Alexander-Hive Invasion Book 1," is a simple, routine SciFi Space "shoot 'em up" space saga, with plot defects. It's a quick read, decent writing, adequate editing and proofreading. The plot defects do undercut and remove much of the potential reading value. Basic storyline: veteran, combat tested, and final C.O. of the Earth's last "true" space warship "Alexander," is tasked with a short training voyage, with a skeleton crew and a cadet class, prior to the decommissioning and scrapping of the proud ship. A space navy/military command, that is flag heavy with political careerists as opposed to warriors (sounds familiar), has restructured a once robust military into a bureaucratic revenue cutter style fleet. The existing wormhole gate technology that facilitates FTL travel to Earth's colonies has begun to suffer mysterious shutdowns. The "Alexander" discovers the reason why—an alien race blitzkrieg is moving towards Earth. The writing skill set is a pleasant surprise after reading so many bad eBooks. It's crisp, literate, and moves quickly. Both the editing and proofreading are adequate, again a pleasurable experience, after being subjected to much eBook drivel. The plot defects that effected the storyline are multiple. An X.O. , with NO ship experience, a political naval officer is assigned prior to the training voyage. Doesn't pass muster. Further, after about two-thirds of the story, a cabal of rescued civilians, saved by the "Alexander," stage a violent mutiny, and seize control. The mutineers include the X.O. These poorly thought out

plot devices derail the story and nearly caused an "abort" to the eBook's reading. Instead, a mediocre rating assigned.

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