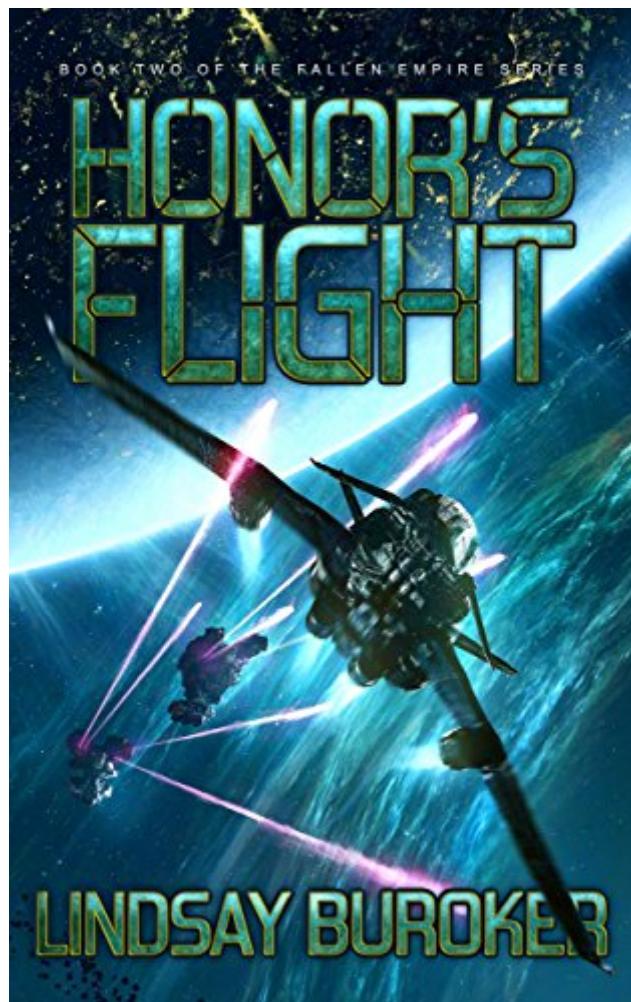


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Honor's Flight: Fallen Empire, Book 2



Synopsis

After spending four years fighting for the Alliance, fighter pilot Alisa Marchenko only wants one thing: to reunite with her young daughter. But this involves a journey to her former home world, which has become the last imperial stronghold. Since the imperials have a lot of reasons to loathe members of the Alliance right now, just getting down to the planet will be a challenge, and it doesn't help that her passengers are stirring up trouble of their own. Even if Alisa is able to land, she may find that more questions await her than answers, and that her late husband kept a startling secret from her, one that could change her life forever.

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Customer Reviews

Honor's Flight picks up after the novella Saranthe 3. Marchenko and crew have made it to Perun, but are initially prevented from landing. After making their way to the planet surface, dodging attacks on the way, the crew separates each to their own missions. Unfortunately, things are not as simple as they appear. With a bounty on one member, the orb with another, the mafia on their tails, and ex-alliance soldiers in company the visit to Perun is anything but peaceful. Overall, I loved this story! As Perun is the seat of "imperial" power, more of the power division between the alliance forces and

imperial forces is revealed. Marchenko gets an update on her daughter's status, and hints are given that the Starseers may be planning something more elaborate than simply surviving. Marchenko's eavesdropping reveals more info on the orb and also a possible future threat. The book also includes a novella which elaborates on the journey after Perun. Written from Leonidas' perspective, it provides a more emotional understanding of Leonidas. Leonidas also realizes something that may effect the remaining journey.

The Fallen Empire series is off to a terrific start. It doesn't matter if they're riding on dragons, steam engines or shag-carpeted spaceships, Ms. Buroker's eclectic groups of characters drive her fun, fast-paced stories. The group in Star Nomad/Honor's Flight/et al is pulled together from the far reaches of the universe at the end of a divisive war. The group sticks together mainly through desperation at the beginning (and very, very little trust). Even though it's billed as science fiction, there's not a lot of in-depth technical descriptions, which is a favorable point to me. I'm happy to accept that this is just how things work thousands of years into the future (although maybe the greatest mystery is how 70s-era shag carpet has survived that long). This series is definitely character-driven, and I'm enjoying getting to know this very diverse set of characters and their motivations throughout their different adventures. I burned through each of the first two books in this series in a day apiece. Also thoroughly enjoyed the bonus short story at the end of Honor's Flight (even more of a bonus that it was from Leonidas's point of view).

If a book could be accused of inducing an adrenaline rush this one is guilty. Once I started reading this second installment of the Fallen Empire series I didn't want to put it down. And if it wasn't enough to enjoy Honor's Flight by itself there is a fantastic bonus short story at the end. Cover to cover action in Ms Buroker's delightfully quirky style, you'll be glad you bought this one.

I'm loving on this series hard. Alisa is torn between her loyalty to the Alliance and the morally correct path. No. Wait. It's not quite that simple. She's loyal to the Alliance, but I think she's also starting to see the cracks in the government they set up. Her loyalty to her daughter, however, is unshakable. It's that loyalty that drives her to do something that made her feel dishonorable and causes some tension in the ranks. Meanwhile, she's starting to see Leonidas as more than just her enemy or the guy who hitched a ride on her ship. Having seen the darker side of war, he's all too aware of how fragile the new government is. (Honestly, I'm not all that impressed with the Alliance's peacekeeping. Sure, they're just pulling themselves up after a rough couple of years, but the

freedom they won came at a steep price and it's the people who are paying for it.) I'm loving Leonidas's strong adherence to doing the right thing. I'm not entirely sold on Alejandro and his mission. Actually, it's not his mission, so much, as what he's willing to do to complete it. Speaking of which, Leonidas has his own mysterious quest he mentioned but hasn't given any detail on. I am CURIOUS about it. Things are getting even more tangled for Alisa and her crew and book 3 is moving them into dangerous territory. I can't wait! -Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Now that we've gotten to know the characters a bit, Alisa gets down to the business of reuniting with her daughter. Tracking her down turns out not to be as straight forward as she would have liked, but it definitely provides us readers with a load of excitement. I love that, although Alisa has collected a couple of bodyguards, whether she wanted to or not, they all land in hot water an awful lot. Ancient libraries, old sewers, footraces, space chases â | I have to say that, for a lighthearted series, the Fallen Empire books have me holding my breath time and again (good thing Iâ™m a fast reader). Honor's Flight pulls us deeper into the post-war universe as Alisa searches for her little girl, wondering what troubles her passengers are bringing along with them. Trust is a thing earned, and it's a long time coming for this group of wanderers that can't seem to split up on their individual errands. I can't wait for episode 3 to hit my Kindle!

Poor Alisa doesn't know what's the right thing to do, now that she can't see Leonidas as the enemy, but still feels loyalty to the Alliance. It becomes difficult, maybe impossible, to still consider herself honorable, no matter what choices she makes. Naturally the hoped-for Perun reunion with her young daughter turns out to not be so simple. There's lots of action: chases on-world, ship-to-ship contact and conflict, but everybody's got their own agenda/goal, including not one but two secret last missions for the emperor. Next stop, the planet where the Alliance have their headquarters -- and apparently so do the mysterious Starseers. It really is a bit like Emperor's Edge in space: solve one crisis, and two more pop up, and the best intentions oft gang agley, though she can maybe persuade her dangerous passenger to be no more deadly than absolutely necessary.

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