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Like Stars In Heaven (Siobhan Dunmoore Book 3)



Synopsis

One last mission. One mysterious passenger. One baffling destination. After centuries of travel, an ancient log buoy finally reaches human-controlled space. In the midst of a stalemated interstellar war, the Admiralty has little interest in wasting resources on what would likely be a fruitless search for the truth, but someone was able to convince them they could afford to send an old, obsolete frigate soon destined for the scrapyard, on this quest. Pulled from her patrol route, Siobhan Dunmoore is ordered to take an envoy aboard Stingray and sail into a poorly charted and virtually unexplored region of the galaxy hidden behind interstellar dust clouds. Along the way, sheâ™ll come to the attention of an old enemy, now also relegated to the fringes of the war, turning a voyage of discovery into a race against time and against each other. Though her troubles quickly multiply, Dunmoore has faced worse odds. Sheâ™s determined to bring Stingray home with its honor intact, and few are brave enough to bet against her, not even their old Shrehari foes.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this latest book in the Siobhan Dunmoore series - it has a great sense of adventure,

plenty of action and battles and an interesting plot that pulled me into the story from the get go; I found myself just wanting to know what was going to happen on the next page, chapter and the chapter after that, etc. Siobhan and her crew take Stingray on an exploratory mission far beyond Commonwealth space after a message buoy from a pre-FTL Earth colony ship is found near the Commonwealth frontier. Will Stingray and her crew find a lost group of humans far out into the black depths of space or will they find something that could pose a future threat to the Commonwealth and the Shrehari Empire? Can Siobhan put aside personal distrust (and the fact they are at war) and work with an old foe? Well y'all will have to read the latest Siobhan Dunmoore adventure for the answers. Overall, Like Stars in Heaven is a great addition to the Siobhan Dunmoore series and there is nothing I like better than a good old fashioned first contact story with all its sense of adventure and wonderment - I felt I was right there on dear old Stingray. I also like the fact that Thomson brings his own military knowledge into his stories - correct rank and file, duties, etc - which in my opinion gives his stories extra depth and realism. I am really looking forward to the next Siobhan story and I hope the next one won't take quite so long to arrive - I am absolutely hooked on these stories and Siobhan is one of my most favourite female characters - she's impetuous, a good tactician and takes no crap from anyone and I'm definitely going to miss Gregor Pushkin in the next SD book.

The third book has the main character Dunmoore and the aging frigate Stingray sent on a fool's quest. An obsolete ship is the perfect choice to send looking for a long lost human colony. Dunmoore has few friends in a government that seems to be drifting toward tyranny under the pressures of the seven year war with the Shrehari. They find a human colony that was cast millennia in the past by an accidental wormhole transit and has reacted to alien attacks by turning into a viciously xenophobic police state. The only thing they want is to capture the Stingray by treachery and then faster-than-light technology will allow them to conquer instead of defend. The Shrehari Captain Brakal makes a reappearance. Twice humiliated by Dunmoore's actions and fighting his own battles against corrupt Shrehari politicos. Arriving at the colony he and Dunmoore become temporary allies because.... read the book and find out.

Four and a half stars. Another great installment from Eric Thomson. This is a nicely paced story with even amounts of drama and action. The richness comes from the characters that have developed through this series. It helps to have read the earlier books, but this story stands well on its own. The interaction and the introspection of the characters makes them almost feel like real people. The

whole book comes together as a fun exciting read.

The Stingray, battered and patched, takes her crew into danger a third time. Still crewed by Dunmore, Pushkin, Syten, Guthren, et al, they have been banished to a far frontier to carry out a special mission: take a diplomat to a more distant part of the galaxy. Tantalizing evidence has come to light suggesting old colonists inhabit a certain star system. Simultaneously, the Shrehari warlord Brakal has been beached by his navy after Dunmore severely damaged his cruiser in Book 2. Imagery shows him strutting, stomping into a tavern, and swilling ale amongst other unemployed. He longs for a rematch. Readers know where this is going; it just takes forever to happen. In fact, the plot drags as Stingray embarks after picking up a well-bred diplomatic envoy. Even chess games between him and the Captain continue to demonstrate her impulsive tactics. Don't look for romance, because she tells us she is too dedicated to her command. But mood is gloomy. The impact is foreboding- we know the ship is last of her kind and new ones due soon. The book depends upon coincidences to stage confrontations far from regular starlanes. What do you think- can an outdated warship be equal to an enemy fresh out of overhaul? Further, readers must accept that abused systems can sift faint signals out of the electronic noise generated by the universe, and cockpit recorders be recovered from scattered tons of warship wreckage. The writing has few errors and little confusion as to each speaker or his thoughts. The space combats are well visualized. Dining in with the Captain identifies each dish and how it is presented with wine. It is not the equal of Books 1 & 2, but it is O.K.- I give it three stars.

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