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The Lost Patrol (Lost Starship Series Book 5)



Synopsis

We learned a terrible secret last voyage, the Swarm exists. It has a monstrous imperium, expanding, evolving and receiving incredible Builder tech. Captain Maddox heads into the Deep Beyond to find the Swarm Imperium. We must know the worst so we can prepare against the deadliest species in the galaxy. The captain and his crew battle loneliness and the terror of the unknown as they hunt through the stellar darkness. They're thousands of light-years from home, from any help. What they find threatens their sanity and unity. It's going to take the best Maddox and the ancient AI Galyan has to offer to pull the crew together. They have to save the starship from what waits in the galactic darkness or the human race will die. THE LOST PATROL is the fifth book in the LOST STARSHIP SERIES.

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Customer Reviews

Buy the book! Read it! Vaughn Heppner continues to amaze as to how he weaves an interesting story. I am assuming most people who are considering book 5 are those who have read the previous books in the series, so first I want to say some things about the writing before addressing

the plot. Obviously the book is still an excellent 5 star book in a 5 star series, but I want to provide an honest critique of what disappointed despite the excellent strengths, which supremely outweigh these minor personal tussles.

1. Vaughn tends to end his stories setting up for the next book in the series. This tends to create a couple mixed feelings in the reader. The first being you are eager to hear how the next set of obstacles are going to be overcome, what is next in store for the characters, and two, you are upset that the character development took a backseat to the plot and you want to learn how the characters relationships actually progress not just "getting wine" and "swimming in a pool together like family".

2. Often descriptions of places and settings are found lacking for the sake of brevity possibly, and to further the plot. As an author myself I believe we authors sometimes just assume the reader is imagining a scene like we are, using minimal description, but this is not often the case and some extra sentences could go further to multiply reader satisfaction.

Plot Criticisms (spoiler alert):

1. What happened to half of the Builder android body that got teleported/beamed/folded onto the Victory? Does it remain on the Victory that can be found later and be examined, or is it lost in the space/time continuum, i.e. oblivion?

2. Luddendorff gives back his device too easily to Meta in final scene. It's hard to believe he would relinquish his final bargaining chip with Star Watch.

3. Why has Star Watch continued to allow Meta to be part of the Victory crew when she is not an official member of Star Watch? A paragraph or so about this should suffice.

4. Who are the Ki-Kaus again, what is their origin story, how are they related to the Adoks? Tend to forget minor details like this from book 4.

5. Why hasn't there been more progress between Meta and Maddox? What is holding Maddox back from more devotion, and why has the script been flipped all of a sudden, Meta likes Maddox more than he likes her. Why can't Maddox let Meta in any closer? Why does he have problem letting her in? Does he not trust her?

Random Praise: Vaughn does an excellent job representing different religious ideologies!

One star removed for doubling down on the insectoid theme (there are two of them now), and punting on the Builders. There is some development of the hero, though he becomes too cocky, and there might be a hint of development in Luddendorff. Or maybe not. We'll see. That would be interesting. Also a hint of development among the robots, however this much is very Asimovian and therefore derivative, with two factions of robots, one sometimes "helping" humans but remaining secret, etc. However, the other faction is non-Asimovian (neither explained nor very interesting, either). Some loose ends as the fate of the kidnapped engineer in the prologue is never revealed. And the fate of the Builders is right out of StarGate SG-1. The writing, however, is as good as the first in the series, very entertaining, so I gave it a positive rating.

Well, I do like the series so I've stuck with it thus far ..My only issue is the AI hope not to spoil things but the AI is about as smart as our latest smart phones now... which is quite pathetic seeing the whole thing is set in the future 100's of years from now.. So whats with the computer AI, intelligence running the ship is bottom line stuff and so hackable by almost everything. But apart from this I do enjoy the flow of the story but hoping for an ending with the AI actually being, highly more capable of more than what I've been reading.

Good series. The books have gotten better but the author does not understand any rank structure. Captain Maddox is an O-3 (meaning 3 steps from bottom of officer corp). His executive officer finally gets promoted from 1st Lieutenant to Captain and Maddox gets her demoted. He is on the flagship of Star Watch and still is only a Captain. Star Watch has a rank structure of same as Army or Air Force; 2nd LT, 1st Lt, Captain, Major, then abruptly stops there and goes to Brigadier General, then everyone else is an Admiral, and one Lord High Admiral. Let's back up.. Brigadier General is an Army officer title and then we have higher up officers listed as Navy Admirals. Choose one ranking system and stick with it. Captain Maddox is the equivalent of a low ranking Lieutenant (O-3) in the Navy. How can he command a flagship of the Star Watch Navy? If you follow the ranking structure he should be a Colonel. Or if you are going to go navy he would be a Lieutenant. Figure it out please. It is confusing. The authors books about Maddox remind me of Edgar Rice Burroughs John Carter series how impressive a man he is but only a man, but no wait...much better than a man. LOL. Clive Cussler does the same thing with Dirk Pitt novels. Anyway, the rank structure is totally weird and throws off the

what is wrong with you, who created those questions? did you have one of those lonely philosophers sitting in their ivory towers to create them? This book is full of fantastic violence and beautiful actions racing over pages in a breath taking tempo. It has the standard of a space ballet where tons of ships makes the intricate steps culminating in a full scale mass destruction, taking the reader frantic to search for more pages long after the last was past. Please keep the intellectuals out of this area of science fictions, they don't understand and they will try to bring us all to court for "violating" the entire humanity. If still in doubt This book is a splendid experience. Spare me for the bloodless killers in your department for political correctness!

The author has an amazing writing style. I am now into his 6th book and I am amazed at the

creativity of this author, to be able to write something of this depth that still can carry me along waiting to "see" what lies next "around the corner". Makes for fascinating reading.

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