



Sanctuary

Allen M. Steele

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An edge of your seat hard SF adventure as colonists on a new world find that nothing is what they expected and that travelling to a distant star is far more dangerous than they'd ever imagined... (5,300 wds)

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Sanctuary Details

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From Reader Review Sanctuary for online ebook

Jocelyn says

Read this on Tor.com and bought the e-book because I needed to know what happens next - was very disappointed to discover this was the whole thing and not just a preview! Too intriguing to end where it did. :)

Victoria says

I read this to get a feel for the authors style of writing before committing to "Arkwright". I agree with many of the reviews that it is a strong Sci-fi story, it's a little more science heavy than I typically read or enjoy, hence the 3 star rating. With that being said I will commit to "Arkwright" and I hope that I enjoy it!

Marco says

An enjoyable hard science fiction story, following two colonist spacecrafts on their way to Tau Ceti. As the passengers get slowly awoken from long term stasis (made necessary by the long distance between the Sun and the Star, and by the maximum limit of speed) the crew realize that the planet is already inhabited... and there is not enough fuel to go back. The story is enjoyable, even if the plot elements have been already seen before.

poiboy says

I will say that I have never read anything by Allen Steele. I only read this short story, because it popped up in my regular Tor.com emails and I gave it an instant read.

The story structure built on operational status reports works very well. The shift in the style due to the major plot point was also well done. The story itself felt like something that could easily be produced by Black Mirror etc. Its a solid story.

Two points of note:

For a short story displayed from a technical/military-esque viewpoint, I literally laughed out loud when i read..

"The idea of a plastic breathing tube ((spoiler removed)) while still in someone's esophagus makes me shiver."

That makes me shiver too.. why are they trying to help someone breath by placing the tube in the esophagus that leads only to the stomach? (lol) I'm pretty sure you'll wanna put that tube in the trachea.

And my last point (and this is a spoiler!! do not read further unless you have read the story)..

I was expecting the approaching ships to have 'indigenous people' on it who would turn out to be other

space-faring colonist that were also marooned by the Rot. Alas, the story ended before first contact.

I will be making the effort to find and read some more of Mr. Steele's work. :) But once again, Tor.com has provided access to another quality story.

Gregoire says

une petite nouvelle pour planter le décor sous forme d'un journal décrivant la catastrophique arrivée sur ce "nouveau monde" de deux astronefs de migrants humains La rencontre annoncée avec une vie extra terrestre n'est pas celle que l'on croit

On reste sur sa faim(peut-être est ce le premier chapitre d'un livre ?)

Merci à Carol pour le lien sur Tor

Netanella says

An excellent sci-fi short offered for free on Tor.com by award-winning author Steele. Many years ago I read his *Orbital Decay* and enjoyed his writing style. Here, Steele offers us a scary tale told through ship logs, of two star ships' exploration of a planet and its consequences. A cautionary tale, and a smart one, too. Very well done.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

A strong 3 stars for this SF short story, free online at Tor.com. Review first posted on Fantasy Literature:

Two generation spaceships arrive at their destination, the planet Tau Ceti-e, after a long journey from Earth. The story of what happens next is told through extracts from the remains of the logbook of the Starship Lindbergh, as the captain of the ship and others log entries discussing what they find on this planet, where they hope to settle and make a new life. Their orbital survey confirms that the planet is habitable by humans, although they unexpectedly find that there is an indigenous civilization there. That civilization is very low-tech, however, and Captain Yvonne Greer doesn't anticipate that they'll have much trouble with them, and in any case there's no practical way of going back, or elsewhere. So they find a large uninhabited island where they hope to settle, and send down survey teams to explore on a short mission. When the teams return, things start to go wrong.

"Sanctuary" is an absorbing SF tale of planetary exploration and the unexpected events that can happen, despite the best-laid plans. I liked the plot, as far as it went, the writing and the setting. There are a couple of amusing medical and scientific glitches pointed out by readers in the comments on Tor.com, but my main issue with the story is that it ended too soon, with too much left hanging. I very much wanted to know what happened next, so much so that I embarked on my own exploratory journey, looking for more stories or perhaps a novel in this universe that "Sanctuary" would be just the introduction for. So far nothing but, like the humans who land on Tau Ceti-e, I haven't entirely lost hope yet.

Mary says

Great story available free from Tor. Two starships carrying colonists in stasis are in orbit around a planet known only as TC-e plan their landing and ready for the awakening of the colonists when tragedy strikes. Terrific read told through the starship log entries. Riveting sci-fy!

<http://www.tor.com/2017/05/17/sanctua...>

Daniel says

Well this was fun. A bit terrifying, but fun. Could be a great intro for a nice Sci-Fi series. Here's hoping for more.

Joe says

Outstanding science fiction, right up there with Isaac Asimov and Robert A. Heinlein, although a touch of Frank Herbert's kookiness. I very much look forward to reading the full-length novel that arose from this story-concept.

Fiona says

That was an unexpected delight - Alan Steele still writes the best damn space colonisation fiction I've read.

The crew of the twin ships Lindbergh and Santos-Dumont have arrived at their objective - an earthlike planet, which they very shortly find may not be as empty as they were led to believe.

The author himself also popped up in the comments to mention that this has inspired him towards further exploring this story - very exciting, because while this absolutely works alone, it would also make a phenomenal start to a new series.

Found (for free!) here: <https://www.tor.com/2017/05/17/sanctu...>

Jen says

This was a very good short story. Kind of the lady or the tiger ending. I hope there are more stories in this world, I want more! Five stars, recommended. :)

Carol. says

Journal from a colonization ship.

<http://www.tor.com/2017/05/17/sanctua...>

Sandra says

Clever and fun. Curious what happens next, though I feel like there are clues.

Some funnier moments than I expected. Regarding what to name this new world: "He suggests a "best name" contest, but I think not. I've met some of the expedition's wittier colonists; if it were up to me, they'd remain in biostasis for a while."

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

► Free SF short from Tor.

This is a journal type thingie. A pretty cool journal type thingie, if I might add. About space **colonization spaceships** and stuff. Which is, you know, **pretty cool and stuff**. And I'm not usually a huge fan of, you know, space colonization spaceships and stuff. But this wasn't, you know, entirely crappy and stuff. So maybe you should, you know, **read it and stuff**. Perhaps.

This is about space colonization spaceships, by the way. In case you didn't know. The space colonization spaceships I might have previously mentioned get to planet Tau Ceti-e and ~~things get kinda sorta downhill from there~~ lots of **fun stuff happens**.

Delightfully boisterous times ahead. And you know what? Our resident space pilgrims end up having **such frolicking good times** on Tau Ceti-e that it almost makes me want to become a ~~Jetson~~ colonist when I grow up. **Almost**. I mean, there aren't Clueless Barnacles to **ruthlessly rule over** on Tau Ceti-e, are there? Thought so. Ergo, staying in the Mariana Trench I am. It's good to be an **undersea dictator** and stuff.

(view spoiler).
