



Antares Dawn

Michael McCollum

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A Note From The Author: Recently I have been experimenting with pricing to judge the effect on sales for all of my books. I am using ANTARES DAWN as a loss/leader to encourage people who have not read me before to give my books a try. If you like technologically sophisticated science fiction, you will probably like the way I write. A warning: DAWN is the book most likely to sink its hooks deeply into new readers who enjoy reading what I enjoy reading. Once you've read it, you may end up buying all of my books. Proceed at your own risk! (Tempe, AZ, February 26, 2012)

When the supergiant star Antares exploded in 2512, the human colony on Alta found their pathway to the stars gone, isolating them from the rest of human space for more than a century. Then one day, a powerful warship materialized in the system without warning. Alarmed by the sudden appearance of such behemoth, the commanders of the Altan Space Navy dispatched one of their most powerful ships to investigate. What ASNS Discovery finds when they finally catch the intruder is a battered hulk manned by a dead crew. That is disturbing news for the Altans. For the dead battleship could easily have defeated the whole of the Altan navy. If it could find Alta, then so could whoever it was that beat it. Something would have to be done.

Antares Dawn Details

Date :

ISBN : 9781929381067

Author : Michael McCollum

Format :

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Space, Space Opera

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From Reader Review Antares Dawn for online ebook

Dan says

This is classic pulp sci-fi. It doesn't break any new ground for the genre, other than that the author is an actual rocket scientist (aerospace engineer) and is able to throw in some details about real astronomical phenomena, and some scientific realities about space travel, mingled with the fiction. It is a very fun, gripping read. A great story.

Michael says

2,5 stars

(Slightly) dated and somewhat old-fashioned space opera.
I liked the space part and didn't enjoy the opera part (relationships and politics).
Not interesting enough to further pursue the series.

Karl Smithe says

This is a hard science science fiction story. Most sci-fi these days is not. The sci-fi story overall only rates a 4 but this has realistic space ships using Newtonian physics and discusses the physics and evolution of stars. Most so called SF can be read without learning anything about anything.

The story is better than average and the characters are OK but not great. Lois McMaster Bujold does way better characters but this is a book that has not gotten around enough and we have teachers constantly talking about STEM.

Breader says

FYI you may have to be a nerd and a lover of sci-fi, to enjoy this book. I was about to give up on this book at about two to three chapters. It was so darn technical but the idea of hoping galaxies alway fascinate me so I chugged along. At some point I got hooked and by the end of book 1, I could not wait to get my hands on book 2. Love it love it love it! And went back to read technical details that I skipped because after I got into it, the science of jumping through folds and the engineering of the spaceships became very important.

Thomas says

McCollum, Michael. Antares Dawn. Antares Series No. 1. Ballantine, 1986.

The premise here is that a supernova has disrupted fold-space points, cutting off a planet from the rest of human culture. This isolation changes when a battle-damaged warship with a dead crew arrives, indicating

that there must be another fold-point somewhere near and that human culture is being menaced by warlike aliens. The speculative science here is good, but characterization and plotting are routine and show their age. Old school space opera in the Hornblower tradition.

Chet says

I really liked the concept introduced in this book of foldspace, where you can only hyper-jump between certain places in space--I never did like the idea, as in other hyper-jump books that I have read, of being able to jump to virtually anyplace in the University, kind of like (impossibly) folding paper so every part of the folded paper touches every other part. Antares Dawn is the first McCollum book that I have read and it sets up a good stage for a series: how a supernova seriously changes the neighborhood.

I almost stopped reading when there was controversy over letting a woman diplomat board a spacecraft: she would be the only woman on board! Compare this to McDevitt books where women are pilots. But I have read all of the McDevitt books and McCollum seems to be the best thing in line, so I will try another one of his books.

Jeffrey says

Fun and easy reading, Space Opera with at least a nod toward some hard science.

Sure it's tropish and the romance part is clumsy and mercifully minor. It reads like some others in the genre as if a bunch of writers each thought about some high plot points and then decided to each put their stamp on it.

The sexism and racism is explained and the characters actively push back against it even as they are constrained by it. I'll be reading the next book in the series for sure.

Shawn Dvorak says

This was my first Michael McCollum book, but it won't be my last. A nice mixture of hard sci-fi, military action, and all-too-familiar human scheming combine in an enjoyable story about the effects of the supernova outburst of the giant star Antares. Many of Earth's handful of colonies are isolated after the supernova, cut off when the explosion disrupts the gravitational foldpoints that enable interstellar travel. After more than a century of isolation, the foldpoint in Alta system reappears, a fact that is only discovered when a huge derelict warship suddenly appears in the system. Fearing the worst, one of the few warships in the Altan space navy intercepts the craft and discovers that it's a huge warship from Earth, the first contact in over a century. However, the ship is terrifically damaged and unmanned, both shocking and worrisome since the warship far outclasses the entire Altan navy. What has been happening in the rest of human spaces over the last century? Was this ship destroyed in some human civil war, or had aliens (hostile, at that) finally been discovered?

David says

Good story, good science. Kept me interested right the way through. Characters are a little bit bit on the light side and there is a slightly old-fashioned feel to interactions between people and to the way in which the captain of a starship would go about his business. Nevertheless, I enjoyed it and will read the others in the series.

J. _(?)_/_ says

Probably slightly closer to a 3.5 star listen. I enjoyed this audiobook and will move straight to the next book in the series. I originally thought these were fairly recent publications, the only thing that caused me to check and discover otherwise was the interaction between men and women. These interactions are really the only times the book felt a bit dated. The book was published in '86 yet oddly, the interactions felt a little more 1950ish. This only proves to me that even in '86 there were sci-fi geeks that had yet to venture out to see what real life girls were actually like (sorry Mr. McCollum).

I appreciated the fact that anytime I thought "this is going to take a while" the author was like "and boom, we're there". I love space and space ships and lasers and space ships, but sometimes the space travel aspect can be really drawn out.

The narrator did a good job as well.

Kelly Nielsen says

I probably had such a positive reaction to this one, because of the string of disappointing Sci-fi I have read recently. This one is true-sci fi. Not Space opera. Start with a scientific premise and explore then ask and answer questions about the world based on that premise. Reminds me of Asimov.

I have already started reading the 2nd in the series rather than wait for it to come up in my normal rotation.

Taylor says

I got this for Kindle on my Android while traveling over the holidays. I just wanted some generic sci-fi and this is exactly that. It reads like a novelized version of a game of Aurora. Which is fine with me, just don't go looking for a lot of originality here. The characterizations are genre caricatures, the action relatively mindless, the plot rather generic. But somehow, in spite of all its flaws, I kept turning the page to see what happened next (even though I kind of knew). It was also decent enough that I got the sequels just to see what happened next.

All in all, good mindless fun that does not even attempt to be "deep" or "meaningful".

Nathan Griffiths says

A good old fashioned space adventure, made me think of Boys Own adventure stories from when I was young. Some anachronistic sexism and slightly dull storylines about relationships and politics, but saved by a great central concept (the existence of a network of "fold lines" that enable the human race to traverse the stars is disturbed by a supernova which brings them into unexpected contact with a hostile alien race) and some hard military sci-fi space battles.

James says

I'm not normally someone who leaves reviews but on this occasion I thought it prudent. I came across Antares Dawn by Michael McCollum by accident whilst going through a box of old books, I sat down and leafed through the first few pages three books later and the series ended with me grabbing for my laptop to order any and all books by this author, I can't rate this author highly enough, my only regret is that I have read all he has written,
If your a lover of believable sci-fi I would definitely give this one a go.

Simon Robert says

Really terrible sub, sub, sub Horatio Hornblower in space. WWII USA navy with people jumping to attention all over the narrative, a planet run on a 1940's Hollywood version of the English aristocracy (the author's anglophilia even runs to describing a star as looking the size of a half-crown (an archaic 12.5p coin)), along with a brainless blond "scientist" lady whose role is to twist her ankle and fall for the rugged lantern jawed male lead. Endless descriptions of spaceships getting into position as they furl their mainbraces, load their cannon, raise their topsails and do whatever else it is that 18th century battleships do when they're in space and heading for a galactic jump gate... truly pointless and boring.
