



## Sins of the Father

*Christopher Kellen*

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Broken free from an unjust imprisonment after seven years, Trace Atherton emerges into a world on the brink of catastrophe. Her father's base of power as the iron-fisted First Administrator of the Kildare Syndicate is slipping, and she knows that he'll do anything to keep that power.

Even if it means sentencing millions of people to death.

With few allies and time running out, Trace rushes to stop the looming disaster before more innocent life is sacrificed atop the pyre of her father's ambition... but first she'll have to overcome the mental paralysis brought on by seven years of imprisonment, and reclaim her confidence as a commanding officer.

Based on the acclaimed short story Dutiful Daughter, Sins of the Father is a full-length novel for fans of David Weber, Fred Saberhagen, and David Drake; set in the Syndicate Worlds, where glorified crime bosses struggle amongst themselves for dominance in the far future of the human race.

## Sins of the Father Details

Date : Published January 15th 2013 by Christopher Kellen (first published December 5th 2012)

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Author : Christopher Kellen

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## From Reader Review Sins of the Father for online ebook

### Wolfjack says

\*\*\*My review, published on LibraryThing 7/1/13\*\*\*

(Disclaimer: Received this ebook free through the LibraryThing ER/Member Giveaway program)

Very enjoyable book. I'm looking forward to reading Volume 2 in the series someday.

Just an aside: I loved the cover, not all Smashwords books have such nice cover artwork.

This book follows the actions of Thomas Atherton, First Administrator of the Kildare Syndicate and his machinations to cement his power and restore the failing economy of the Syndicate. He's willing to sacrifice his own people to do this. The heroine of the work is Trace Atherton, Thomas' daughter (cloned from his dead wife). She escapes from a hellish prison and is expected to lead a rebel movement of sorts to bring down her own father.

The author does a great job of meshing the different approaches and viewpoints of multiple arcs and their participants. An example is in the same stretch of the book; there is a sabotaged ship, the heroine's ship, the ship of her brother who at first is not by any means her ally, and the ship that could bring the death of millions of people on the planet below. There was a great amount of dialogue and scene description and of course action all going on and the author managed it well.

Truthfully, the book put me in mind a bit of the Honor Harrington books by David Weber. Just the heroine and her tough appeal, not to mention the fortitude she displays when so much is asked of her and she must recover so quickly from 7 years of unjust imprisonment.

At the end the author did a nice quick turn-around and dropped a little bombshell (no pun intended) on me. What I expected to be the cliffhanger leading into the future Volume 2 in the series wasn't what I got at the end, which was nice.

The characters and their exchanges all felt real and they definitely had their strengths and faults, just like we all do.

My pet peeves are the usual little things that take away just a pinch from the experience and make an otherwise great book into a good book. There were a few places in my ebook epub edition (from about Dec 2012) that wording issues and some typos occur. I still enjoyed the premise, the execution, and the characters involved in the book overall, but I think a tiny bit of final editing would have made this work shine.

I'd recommend this (e)book to sci-fi enthusiasts in general and military sci-fi readers particularly.

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### Kurt Springs says

This review was first published on Kurt's Frontier.

### Synopsis:

Commander Trace Atherton had been a promising commander of a light cruiser squadron for the Kildare Syndicate Defense Force. Now she is a prisoner on a prison world that isn't supposed to exist, sent there by her own father—First Minister of the Kildare Syndicate. However, her father's grip on power—and his own sanity—is slipping. When two friends realize that he is preparing to sentence millions of people to death to hold on to power, the break Trace free from and begin a mad rush to stop her father.

Yet her father isn't her only enemy. She must also battle her inner demons, brought on by seven years of imprisonment and guilt at the loss of most of her crew when she tried to stop her father before.

### Review:

Commander Trace Atherton is a hero trying to recover from the damage done by her father's betrayal and the fact that she survived when 95% of her crew KSDF Renaissance had died seven years before. This creates a protagonist with many layers. The action is well paced and gives a vivid depiction of space combat. The antagonists are less well developed and seem to have less depth. However, this does not detract from the overall excitement. I look forward to the next installment of The Syndicate Wars.

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### **Cassandra Davis says**

Sins of the Father is a 3.5 star military sci-fi novel. The story is well developed and the pacing is great. Action scenes are interspersed regularly to keep the reader engaged. Those who like to read space-based, military-centric, science fiction will enjoy this book.

I found the character development to be hit or miss. The main character, Trace Atherton, has a few issues that keep her from being a cookie-cutter female protagonist. I liked that. The villains, though, seemed flat. That's a personal opinion that others may not agree with, however.

My Kindle copy was well formatted and I did not find the book to be poorly edited or have grammar errors that detracted from my enjoyment.

The reason I only gave this book 3.5 stars is that I felt the military interactions were "off". Characters change rank sometimes in the middle of a scene (probably an editing error?) or lower ranks and ratings respond to a superior officer in odd or down-right insubordinate ways. However, and I cannot emphasize this enough: readers of military scifi tend to apply the traits of modern, real-life, military organizations to the made-up, largely non-Earth based, militaries in science fiction. This is a natural reaction but it is somewhat unfair to the author. We allow authors to create their own worlds and races, so why can't a sergeant be a navigational "officer" who somehow makes it to the rank of Commander?

The odd military structure and interactions in this book, along with the sometimes too-close similarities to Firefly, limited my enjoyment of the story. I would, still, recommend it to those who like the genre.

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### **Denielle says**

This was a very good book, enjoyed all of the twists and turns that this story gave. Having a scifi last name I like to read and good scifi book and this did not disappoint.

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### **Frances says**

Sins of the Father is an intricate and brilliantly crafted military scifi treat. I was held completely captive from page one, and was not disappointed once along the way. The plot had all the political intrigue, action, character and science I craved, and just when I thought I had it worked out, it expertly twisted in a different direction.

Just as Thomas Atherton's devious plans had infinite, unexpected layers, the story itself continued to peel back and deepen with each shift in the action.

I haven't been this entertained by a book in a very long time.

Superb.

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