



The Lost Artifact

Vaughn Heppner

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Star Watch defeated the Swarm Invasion Fleet, but at a terrible cost in destroyed star systems, smashed battleships and billions of dead. In the aftermath of the costly victory, chaos threatens as worlds leave the Commonwealth of Planets, face mass starvation or succumb to increased piracy.

The war against the Swarm Imperium has just begun. Humanity needs unity or each planet will fall alone.

Brigadier O'Hara of Star Watch Intelligence stumbles onto a secret conspiracy. Someone is trying to destroy the Commonwealth from within, and they have an alien artifact of incredible power.

O'Hara summons Captain Maddox. Although she fears to lose him, she knows that Maddox and his crew have the best chance of finding the hidden enemy. If the captain fails, the Commonwealth will be powerless to stop its destruction. What O'Hara doesn't know—it would probably break her heart if she did—is that she has just sent Maddox into the most harrowing battle of his career.

THE LOST ARTIFACT is the eighth book in the LOST STARSHIP SERIES.

The Lost Artifact Details

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Author : Vaughn Heppner

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From Reader Review The Lost Artifact for online ebook

Alex Shrugged says

This book is better than the other books of the series. I would give it 3 1/2 stars if I could.

It is difficult to talk about the story without giving away too much of the plot. The Commonwealth has been saved from The Swarm, but that was only the first wave. The Commonwealth must unite against this common enemy, but someone wants humanity to die... to be replaced by a race of "New Men" or no one at all. Thus, an ancient artifact is dredged up to be used against the human race. It is Captain Maddox's job to find the evil-doer and stop him from using the artifact.

Any problems with the story? Not really. It seems that the human race has an abundance of enemies. The narrative also seems smoother than previous books in the series. If you have read this far you have already forgiven the author for any clumsiness in the narrative. This also seems to be a transitional book, moving the story along to get to a position the author wants all the characters to be in. That happens often to authors, especially when the main threat has been defeated... even temporarily.

Any modesty issues? There is the occasional use of the word "d-mn". Beyond that? None that I recall.

I am on to the next book in the series, "The Lost Star Gate".

Madhu says

This book brought back some of the human alien interactions I missed since the early books, specifically when Maddox took over Victory and his conversations with Galyan. The author is really good at imagining conversations a human will have with AI/Aliens. I am also glad that he didn't try to out do the story from the last time by blowing up a galaxy this time. I hope the retrieved builder artifacts relate to the next book as this story for the most part was a one off in the grand scheme of "Victory saving the commonwealth". Overall, an entertaining read!

Gina says

Riveting Series

Well written, superior plot. The entire series is superb! I couldn't put them down until I finished. It would be a shame not to continue this series. It has so many more possibilities.

Kathleen Amirault says

Amazing, spellbinding, can't put it down!

If you like stories that link together, have believable sci fi action and wind you around the authors little finger, start reading this series from the beginning!

This series of books are well written and are “can’t put the damn things down” books.

My only frustration is that there are only eight books so far. Mr Heppner, put down that cup of coffee and get typing :-)

Bill Smock says

Early in the series, I wrote a tepid review. Obviously, however, Heppner kept my attention... and I have not read a bunch of my favorite authors whose books I have in my Kindle ready to read. The plots are detailed and intricate and keep having great twists - that are sometimes not expected, but usually make sense. I started #9 and will likely finish within a few days - and will get on with some other reading until #10 is published.

JLTucker says

I thoroughly enjoy Vaughn Heppner's work and look forward to additions to the Lost Starship series. I agree with some of the reviewers on here - I did feel that this book was maybe rushed to market and was a little disjointed. We did get to see more of the love between Maddox and his wife. I think his wife deserves more of the fleshing out that he did in his earlier books - she's clearly very capable but she's been more sidelined. I like Maddox's brilliant insights but some of his leaps of logic which are always right are a bit of a stretch but he did start in intelligence I suppose. The plot makes some leaps - like why did the Builder switch to ally after previous behavior (I'm trying not to ruin plot points). I think the Strand clones couldn've been more fleshed out as well as it was an interesting plot point. Perhaps we'll see more of them in another installment. I'm not sure how many are planned for the series. I don't personally like a series that goes indefinitely so hopefully there will be one to possibly two more that tie it all together and bring closure. I know we'll see lots of other awesome sci fi from this writer so will have plenty of other books to jump to after this. All in all, it's a fun read, full of adventure and expanding our views of the universe and I enjoy getting lost after a day's hard work in this fiction. If you haven't already, I'd start at the beginning and go on this adventure with Captain Maddox from the beginning.

Keith Coleman says

Rushed

I was somewhat disappointed. I am a Lost Starship series fan. This book however seemed very disjointed and without the crew camaraderie of the previous books. Lots of alluded to love between Maddox and Meta without any storyline pertinence. Very contrived with quick shallow subplots and it almost seemed like the storyline was truncated in spots. It was like a writing effort that was more outline than polished story. I hope this trend is reversed as I have really enjoyed books 1-7.

Mike Nemeth says

Describing a Vaughn Heppner book to somebody unfamiliar with the author is next to impossible without a lot of background. There's this ancient spaceship, controlled by an alien construct, the last of his kind and thousands of years old. And Captain Maddox is a brilliant tactician, half man and half new man. His ace pilot is a former drunk but without peer in space. His second in command trusts him but is always ready to counter his random, risk-taking nature. His girlfriend is one of the strongest women anywhere and ready to throttle anybody who threatens her man. His best friend is an old soldier with a mechanical arm who never lets him down. And his enemies are many, topped by a so-called Methuselah man named Strand, who always has a contingency plan. "The Lost Artifact," the eighth novel in the Lost Starship series, starts with our hero Maddox about to be exterminated. He misjudged his opponents and let them get the upper hand. Maddox must rely on the help of a relative stranger to get free and the good will of an android, who may or may not be interested in the extermination of the human race. Strand, who is in the custody of the New Men, nonetheless is the antagonist. His plans unfold because he is in custody and they spin so far out of control that Maddox will be hard pressed to even slow them down much less get the problem solved and the bad guys immobilized. I'd been reading a lot of thrillers and mysteries when I plugged myself into Heppner yet again, and it made me realize what a vast and complex imagination this guy has. I mean I offered up some detail but he goes so far beyond that. Maddox is good, but his enemies are far stronger and better equipped. He only succeeds because of his loyal team and their combined wits. Heppner's a master at his craft.

Robert says

The series continues

Perhaps my least favorite of all of the series books so far. I don't know why, but it seems to lack the supporting characters involvement in some way. The main character also seemed more superficial and have less depth than in the beginning of the series. I can't quite put my finger on it but I'm hoping the next one will generate some of the excitement i got from reading most of the other books in this series.

Kimberly Sparks says

Read all 8 books...

I've read all 8 of the books in the series now. Each book can stand alone, but do yourself a favor and start with the first and work forward...you won't be sorry!

Mary Barb says

Give Yourself At Least A Complete Day To Read This Book

Mr. Heppner has written a spellbinding and compelling 8th book in this series. You will start and not want to

stop. There are plenty of twists and situations that will leave you wanting more. Captain Maddox and crew do not disappoint.

Roger Chapman says

Great book

Loved the book, the series and your writing style. However I really hate the manner it forces one to make when writing the review. Seems like if you really want to hear what people think, then someone would spend a little time in making this better at accepting my (user) input. Anyhow, this entire series has been awesome and I look forward to many more.

Mick Bird says

A great addition to the series, with lots of detail on how Maddox works through some difficult situations he finds himself and crew in. There was nonstop twists and turns in this book. Definitely recommend.

Htb2050 says

Another stellar entry in the Saga of Captain Maddox. However this book felt really weak compared to the last one.

The last one had epic action and had a real interesting story to follow and the stakes were really high for the earth. We also got epic space battles and a lot of great moments for Captain Maddox to shine.

However in this book the great parts are only a few it mostly follows the story of Yen Cho and you can glean exact plot from the first few chapters. The writing was the same for Meta and O'Hara and Riker. They made only a few appearances just for the sake of it. Even though the plot was weak still nothing beats Captain Maddox and his team.

Tammi says

Mr. Heppner delivers another amazing story in continuation of his "Lost Starship" series. Just when I think that the scope can't get any bigger, the author proves me wrong! These books are amazing adventures into unknown parts of space and a believable introduction into alien races and technology that is mind boggling, yet realistic. You truly get a feel for how vast and empty the universe can be and yet, it really isn't.
