



Refusing Excalibur

Zachary Jones , Paul Simpson (Editor) , Denise Baker (Editor)

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The First Civilization collapsed without cause and without warning a thousand years ago, leaving behind a galaxy at war as would-be galactic empires attempt to rebuild the First Civilization in their own image.

Victor Selan fought one of those empires and lost. Abandoned after the defeat of his homeworld, Victor is rescued by the Old Man, an enigmatic figure in possession of the a fully operational First Civilization starship.

A starship that the Old Man wants Victor to command. All he has to do in return is agree to reunify the Galaxy.

Refusing Excalibur Details

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Download and Read Free Online Refusing Excalibur Zachary Jones , Paul Simpson (Editor) , Denise Baker (Editor)

From Reader Review Refusing Excalibur for online ebook

Janelle B Robinson says

Excellent read!

Very good start with an even better end. Any serious scfi reader will enjoy. Highly recommend as this is a "can't put it down" book.

Volpot says

4 stars. Good book with interesting characters and story-line. Will likely read a sequel if written

Phil says

Fast read with very little slow parts.

Felt sort of like a good scifi action flick; not too deep and characters only partially fleshed out. However, it was definitely entertaining

Don Willits says

Solid storytelling, avoiding sci fi cliches

While this could be the start of a series — it stands on its own two feet narratively. The variblade is an interesting idea, one of several that makes this story stand out.

Elizabeth says

Similar to the premise of Battlestar Galactica, Earth is the lost world of origin of the entire human species throughout the galaxy. Once an advanced culture colonizing space and booming with amazing technology, Earth is now lost to space and time. But the other humans remember the stories, and artifacts of the so-called "First Civilization" circulate among the upper-class families. In this time, a thousand years after the jump gate to Earth has closed, the ruling family of one planet sees its duty to reunite humankind and declares war on those who don't concede. Yet another man loses his entire planet to war and shifts about the worlds seeking vengeance.

Our protagonist, Victor, is the product of a world at war with an enemy for decades, an officer in the space-faring navy who took the lives of his enemies for the good of his own people. Quite possibly the only

survivor of his planet, he turns to a life of mercenary work, killing for money and seeking out the opportunity to exact revenge upon the man who ordered genocide. Throughout the story, his PTSD wrestles with his desire to change the galaxy.

Excalibur is a First Civilization relic, a ship of profound technological ability with an AI guardian known only as "the old man." The AI seeks out someone to fly this beacon of strength with intentions of ending the lethal division of the human-inhabited planets by reuniting all humankind under a common power.

*I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Bill Ramsell says

A well-written piece of space opera. Looking forward to more from this author.

Ed Tinkertoy says

I really liked the book. It has a great story line and lots of action and twists and turns. I would have given the book a rating of five (5) if it had not been for a couple things. First there were a couple times when the story just shifted 2 or 3 years ahead and no explanation of what happened in between. A chapter would end and then pick up 2 or 3 years later. The story was about the main character, Victor, also called Capt Blackhand, and finally the Guardian, who was after revenge after seeing his home planet with his wife and kid on it destroyed. He sought revenge against the man who did it. In the end he became the savior of the universe by stopping wars.

The other thing that took away from the story for me was the graphic gore and gruesome killings in some parts of the story. The main character, Victor, even had a hand chopped off. But there were other battles where people's heads and arms was cut off.

The science fiction in the book was OK. I assumed after a while that the "jump points" were actually worm holes but the writer never said such. Space ships were continually in the story moving to jump points and emerging in a different galaxy or star system. The writer did not try to explain the mechanics of the "jumps".

Read the book, you'll enjoy it.

Michael Fraser says

Gripping

Well written action pack book, story of lost, gain, challenging the status quo to change and unite humanity, hope. Looking forward to more in the series.

David P. Duffy says

So-So Story Undercut By Lifeless, Limp, Amateurish Writing

"Refusing Excalibur," authored by Mr. Zachary Jones, has a so-so story, that is severely undercut by the lifeless, limp, amateurish writing. The end result is a plodding, uninspired snoozer of a read.

Far into the future, humanity is spread among hundreds of worlds, originally settled by humans of the First Civilization. That "golden age" of humanity collapsed millennia in the past, with the accompanying peace, high technology, all lost. Wars, conflict, genocide, are the ever increasing tide among the spacefaring worlds. One conflict finds a ruthless empire engaged in a decade-long war with a democratic republic, which culminates in the destruction of republic world, the genocide of its population. One survivor, a starship captain, Victor, is forced to watch by the emperor, his family, his world, scorched from existence. Victor is left in orbit in a survival pod, as a reminder to those who refuse the emperor, of the consequences. The lone survivor awakens on a highly advanced ship, is offered its captaincy by a hologram, in order to save the galaxy, refuses, and awakens again on a free planet, with a full wallet. It moves on, into abrupt time shifts, mercenary work, making money, sword fights, and "explanations" of the hologram and its ship.

The author makes the MC, Victor, a lame, unsympathetic, and in general, lifeless protagonist. It's not because he is burnt out by his grief, emotionally overwrought by the loss of his child, wife, family, planet. Nor is Victor in an icy cold rage, bent on revenge. No, the author makes him a cardboard figure, flotsam that aimlessly meanders through the story. Character after character "smirks," without respite. The "old man" hologram, present at the story beginning, disappears, only to return near the end, to establish a cliffhanger conclusion. Mr. Jones, uses the "f-word" relentlessly with one character, apparently in a vain attempt to show the character's coarseness, and his own edginess. It is so pervasive, so unending, that it is indicative of a juvenile amateurism writing style. The nymphomaniac lesbian princess, bedding every female she runs across, is also another example of the adolescent teenager level of writing. It has nothing to do with story development, or character depth; it's all about trying to be "hip." Doesn't work.

The listed proofreader does a mediocre job. Why the weird font change for italicizations is annoying. The listed editor is incompetent, and this reviewer hopes for the author's sake, the abysmal "work," was pro bono. The overall sense of the book is a poor man's mishmash of "Arthurian, Camelot" legend themes, sliced together with the "Andromeda" tv show from years ago.

The book is not recommended and was fully read via Kindle Unlimited.

Jeff says

Due to the price of ebooks and the fact that they leave very little imprint (i.e. Don't take up valuable and limited space) I tend to be a little more open to authors and books than I normally would be. Sometimes I'm pleasantly surprised; sometimes not.

This book falls right in the middle. It wasn't a bad book but it tried to do too much and much of what that was was derivative.

Perhaps the thing that annoyed me most was that characters who perform absolutely evil actions in the book

are then expected to deserve our sympathy - and the author pulls this not once but twice.

George Sterling says

Just finished the book and loved it I just couldn't put it down. From start to finish it was action packed.

John Maynard says

A very good book

I enjoyed the action and the story. I look forward to the other books to follow. The guardian is a flawed but heroic person. I liked him.

Steve Canipe says

Hope is a four-letter word

A stunning exploration of forgiveness in space. It brings together characters who grow and develop through pain and many trials. A most enjoyable read.

Jack Stanley says

A First Class Science Fiction Saga

A very interesting tale, well told with lots of action and adventure. The characters are fully developed and make for a well cast story.

Jennifer Shell says

I didn't know what to expect; the title is just a little bit misleading. But, I am a long-time fan of anything related to the King Arthur stories, so Excalibur caught my attention. And, though not a King Arthur story in the slightest, from the very beginning of this space adventure, the story easily drove my desire to continue turning the pages. Beginning to end, I was never bored. A most worthy read!
