



Dawn of Procyon

Mark R. Healy

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In the midst of an interstellar conflict, mechanic Landry Stanton is shipwrecked on a remote outpost planet, stranded along with a hostile alien that wants him dead.

All Landry wants is to forget the woman he left back on Earth, but now he finds that much bigger issues are at stake: the creature, belonging to a species known as the Argoni, may hold the key to turning the tide in the entire war, assuming Landry can live long enough to tell anyone about it.

Pitched into a life and death struggle against the brutal environment and the Argoni itself, Landry is forced to challenge everything he thought he knew about the war, the aliens and even himself.

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<http://www.futurehousepublishing.com/beta-readers-club/>

Dawn of Procyon Details

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Author : Mark R. Healy

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From Reader Review Dawn of Procyon for online ebook

VJ Stock says

FYI: I received a copy of Dawn of Procyon from Future House Publishing in exchange for an honest review

Wow. That's all I have to say for this review. I know, I know, that's not telling you the story but I was actually blown away by this plot. Couldn't get myself to stop because it was so desirable that you wanted to know what the hell happens! To start off, Dawn of Procyon is about a battle; two colonies—Earth and Argoni, trying to conquer one another as it took place on Procyon (an inhabitable planet). Landry Stanton had an unfortunate situation that caused him to be left on this planet. Now, don't get me wrong he had a decent life but one day everything changes. I guess helping others can sometimes backfire...

Oh can't forget this girl Cait, who really really wants Landry's job. She seems like she would do anything to steal it away, but her break came in when Landry mysteriously disappears....Duh Duh Duh! First day on the job, things don't go the way she wanted it to be. C'mon, everything is always messy on your first day! The character description was incredible. I liked how Healy's thoroughly details everything; from the planet to the people—I feel like I'm walking into the world as if it existed. The way he makes the two characters be connected was perfect. I mean, I love how descriptive the two characters were and how their lives were polar opposite. Yet, they somehow had similar taste. I am big on action pack fight scenes. I mean, I love them! So the style that he had written them were really exciting. I felt it was a scene from Independent's Day, when Will Smith kick the crap out of the alien...just say "best moment ever". I felt my heart pounding and flipping out!

To read more...check out <http://www.floralsndragons.com/2016/0...>

Rhett Bruno says

I really enjoyed this book. I think it works perfectly for fans of hard scifi like THE MARTIAN, but where I felt it surpasses that book is that it has heart.

The story moves along at a brisk pace, with my only complaint being that it started a little slowly. After that though, it was all the smartly written techno-sequences of THE MARTIAN, but with interesting characters that I actively felt frightened for and could root rooted for. It definitely felt like a first book in a series, with a lot more expected to be revealed in sequels. I'm eagerly waiting for them!

The characters pop off the page. The action is electric. Mark Healy is a new voice in sci-fi that's worth keeping an eye on!

4.5 out of 5 stars

Nabiya Zaki says

this book was sent to me for free in return of an honest review

I think this book was amazing. i didnt want to put it down and just wanted to read it 24/7
It was a little confusing and boring in the beginning and in some parts in the middle that i wanted to skip.
the books about a war between humans this species of aliens called the argoni.
They have been trying to take over thee earth since a few years but always failed
i think the end couldve been better
it was really sad how they introduced landrys wife and baby that had died.
I was confused when it was brought up in the book because there was no background of them or anything.
This book was all over the place and had a lot of twists and that is what made this book so interesting to read.

Mike Billington says

I really enjoyed Mark R. Healy's "Silent Earth" dystopian trilogy so when I saw "Dawn of Procyon" pop up today on Amazon I immediately grabbed it.

Sorry, I had to stop for a minute to pat myself on the back for doing so because this is a brilliant novel, the first in a series about a long-running war between Earth and an implacable alien enemy - the Argoni. The action takes place on the inhospitable planet Procyon, an Earth outpost, where Landry Stanton is having a really bad day. Landry wound up on Procyon as the result of a personal tragedy (I won't spoil the story by telling you what it is) and he leads what seems to be a perfectly boring life. Work, sleep, work... his routine never varies except on this one day when he agrees to help a friend - the only one he has on the entire planet - who is in desperate need.

Meanwhile, Cait Underwood, an ambitious young woman with her eye on Landry's job as an operational technology supervisor, thinks she is about to realize her dream of climbing the administrative ladder when Stanton suddenly disappears.

Her first day in her new job is not quite what she hoped for, however, and therein lies a tale.

Healy has a remarkable talent for creating memorable characters, world building, and injecting just the right amount of action into his novels to keep the reader fully engaged.

At first glance Landry and Cait seem, for example, to be wildly different: One, haunted by his past, seeks to bury himself in his job, while the other is trying desperately to prove that, despite her gender, she is as capable as any man. Beneath the surface, however, they may be more alike than either realizes but that remains to be seen.

The wonderful thing about these characters, and the secondary men and women that Healy has created, is that they read as "real." We can readily identify with Landry, Cait and his other characters because we work with - and for - men and women that are just like them.

Some of us might even "be" them.

In his earlier "Silent Earth" trilogy, Healy did a remarkable job describing a war-ravaged planet. In "Dawn of Procyon" he does an equally good job of describing not just the physical characteristics of this outpost planet but also life inside the artificial world humans have created so they can live and work on it. His description of the Argoni is detailed and written in such a way that the reader discovers who and what they are gradually, through the natural course of the novel. There is no massive "information dump" to slow down the narrative, in other words. That not only keeps the reader engaged but adds to the enjoyment of the novel: The reader is allowed, as a result, to make discoveries throughout the story.

The action scenes in this novel are very well written. You can feel muscles getting tired, breath growing short, and almost smell the fear that his characters - human and alien - are experiencing. The ability to do that successfully is a rare gift, one that Healy takes full advantage of in this novel as he has done in the past. As all good novels do, "Dawn of Procyon" raises important questions for readers. How much responsibility, for example, do those in charge bear for those who work for them? Are people more important than profits?

How much should a person risk to "do the right thing?" Is doing the right thing worth risking your career? Your life? How far would you - should you - go to help someone in need? Is it your moral duty to question decisions made by higher-ups when you think they are wrong? Or is it more important to simply follow orders and get on with the job?

I could go on but in the end it comes down to this: "Dawn of Procyon" is, for so many reasons, an excellent read and the start to what looks to be an amazing science fiction series. I highly recommend it.

Jessica Strider says

Pros: fascinating aliens, Landry's resourcefulness

Cons: cliched characters, Landry comprehends the alien with remarkable speed

When Landry agrees to help a friend he has no idea that favour will leave him stranded on the surface of Proc-One, oxygen running out, no way to communicate with the base, and no hope of a rescue. Then he realizes that one of the alien enemy Argoni is nearby, cannibalizing the wreck of his scout ship.

Cait's the optech promoted to supervisor after Landry's disappearance. Her day's not going well either. Her boss is unreasonable, work is piling up, there's an emergency repair that brings its own mystery, and she's found a picture of Landry with a mystery woman. She wants to enjoy her promotion but keeps thinking of Landry and wondering if he really is dead.

Landry's a pretty resourceful character, surviving in harsh conditions for a surprising amount of time. Though lots of new problems arise, he faces each one and finds a solution. I really enjoyed his man vs nature chapters. The book spends a lot of time trying to get away from the initial impression of him as an anti-social workaholic. He's portrayed as mostly friendless, with few redeeming qualities.

For the most part I liked Cait, though she's somewhat cliched as well, a female mechanic trying to prove her worth to her father and male co-workers. She's conflicted in that she's happy to be promoted, but she doesn't feel that abandoning Landry is fair, regardless of the circumstances for his disappearance. I did find it strange that the picture of Landry and his wife made her reconsider him as a person. I wouldn't have thought his personal relationships would matter if she believed him a jerk for being so stand offish at work. There's a chapter towards the end of the book where she makes some baseless assumptions about him that her own investigations don't support.

There were some plot points that didn't make much sense to me, starting with how Landry and Gus managed to steal a scout ship out of a military installation that requires passing through some sort of airlock. Surely there would be notification that the outer door has been opened, if there isn't anything showing that a scout ship has been activated.

While I liked the pacing of most of the book, the ending progresses too quickly to feel realistic. It's hard to believe Landry could come to comprehend anything at all from something so alien, but to do so as quickly as he does defied belief. I did enjoy learning more about the aliens and found these chapters very interesting, regardless of how contrived parts of it felt.

Having said that, the book's ending was rather cool, with sequel potential.

This is a flawed book, but one that reads quickly and has some interesting ideas.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Dawn of Procyon

Distant Suns, Book 1

By: Mark R. Healy

Narrated by: Travis Baldree

This is an audible book I requested and the review is voluntary.

This is a suspenseful, alien contact, against the elements or die kind of book. Being a kind hearted sucker, our main man takes a shuttle transport out to help his only friend to get something and they crash. His friend is killed and he is stranded far from the outpost low on oxygen, a wrecked shuttle, and a giant boulder type creature is watching him and taking pieces from the wrecked ship. His outpost thinks he is dead and is on lockdown. It is very exciting how he tries to survive and not get captured or killed. There is a female that takes his job and follows leads...keeps wondering if he is really dead.

The narrator is super awesome at keeping the suspension up and the emotions up and down as needed. There are some very emotionally parts as our man flashes back in his life. The narrator also is wonderful at performing girls and women's voices.

Great job!

CB Newman says

Fans of Mark R. Healy books will detect a distinct change in writing in his latest series and novel, Dawn of Procyon. This change is something that comes to authors who have carefully developed and honed their craft over time, until the epiphanal novel emerges that is not only well written but also a great read.

Dawn of Procyon revolves around standoffish and inglorious technician Landry, repairman and mechanic on a remote planetary outpost named Proc-One. He is the supervisor to a crew of Optech "grease monkeys" and mechanical engineers which keep the outpost and its detachment of Marines (UEM) up and running. Their role is pivotal to the outpost and keeping the Marines' dropships and military hardware operational; Earth and all planetary outposts are at war with a mysterious alien species named the Argoni.

Chapter 1 drops the reader directly into the thick of things. The story begins with Landry having just crashed on the inhospitable (and unbreathable) Proc-One after colliding with an alien fighter. The pilot is dead, and Landry is running out of options on how to survive and return to the outpost over 300 kilometers away; his problem lies with the fact no one knows there are Argoni on Proc-One, that the ship has left the outpost, or where it has crashed. Landry is quickly running out of oxygen, water, and options.

Why no one knows where Landry or the ship has crashed is cleverly explained through flashbacks and exposition in chapters that follow. The story's main exposition of Landry comes from Cait, a female co-worker whom Landry supervised and quarreled with. Cait is more than happy to be promoted to Landry's now-vacant position of OpTech Supervisor. Her first duty as the new Optech Supervisor is to obtain a death certificate for Landry, but ends up discovering the hidden backstory and person Landry was during the process. The story's pace quickens, and Landry and Cait find themselves caught separately in their own

intrigue and danger while an unseen alien threat to the outpost manifests itself.

Dawn of Procyon takes me back to classic science fiction works like The Forever War (Joe Haldeman - 1974) or Starship Troopers (Robert Heinlein - 1959). The pleasure I derived when first reading those novels was the same enjoyment I had reading Healy's novel. This comes from enjoying a book that is as much world building as it is sub-text on society, the corporations and military which control it, and mankind's existence now-versus-later.

Dawn of Procyon feels like fiction written by a well established, veteran science fiction author. With thousands of science fiction writers published on Amazon, not all that glitters is gold. Maybe that's why I love this book as much as I do, as it is an undiscovered jewel hidden within the giant Amazon sea of glittering sci fi. Highly recommended read.

Sheryl says

This is an entertaining science fiction story with interesting, fully fleshed out main characters and good writing. While it starts off very reminiscent of the book "The Martian", it quickly veers off into something different. The more or less back and forth chapters between Landry's fight for survival and Kate's experiences at the outpost, made me not want to put the book down. There was, however, one major incident at the outpost that seems to have no connection to the rest of the storyline but perhaps that will be explained in the next book. Yes, there most definitely should be a next book as this one feels way too much like the start of a series (though at the time I write this review it is not labeled as part of a series). There isn't exactly a cliffhanger but the book ends with much left unanswered and what feels like a lead-in to the plot for the next book. If there is one, I will be happy to pick it up when it's available.

UPDATE to above portion of my review: Please note that this book is marked as book 1 on both Amazon and Audible, just not here on Goodreads, hence my error above in my original review. Rather than change the original review (which I cannot do on Audible), I am making note of it here in this review. Book 2 is already available (just not on audio... bummer).

The audiobook is very nicely narrated by Travis Baldree. He does a solid job with both male and female voices and his pacing is excellent. I could comfortably listen at the regular 1.0x speed (no need to speed it up like I often have to do). Would really like it if Book 2 was available on audio too.

****Please note that this audiobook was provided by the author, narrator or publisher at no cost in exchange for an unbiased review courtesy of AudiobookBoom dot com.**

Mike Kershaw says

In this, Mark R Healy's first book for Future House Publishing, he has written the first instalment in a sci-fi series that works just as well for teens as it does adults. Dawn of Procyon starts out slowly as he establishes his main characters and the world they inhabit but picks up pace later with the ending leaving the reader teetering on the edge with a good old fashioned cliffhanger.

Mark's ability to build solid characters you believe in is on show once again. But whereas his

previous novels had a dark claustrophobic quality to them this, whilst not entirely dispensing with that formula, is distinctly lighter in tone reflecting the books wider audience.

The book centres around two main characters; Landry and Cait who work as mechanics at an outpost on the inhospitable planet Procyon A. Humanity is at war with an alien race called The Argoni and the base they work at is one of many that act as a buffer between the Argoni and the Earth.

Both Landry (a quiet focussed loner) and Cait (driven and ambitious) are looking to flee their pasts for different reasons. The difficulties they encounter make them able to finally confront those pasts and as a consequence contemplate their futures differently.

There are other threads running through the story and I am sure that other characters will be developed further in books to come. I am very much looking forward to reading the next instalment as Mark R Healy never fails to deliver stories full of exciting twists, perilous situations and believable people you come to genuinely care about.

I received a copy of Dawn of Procyon ?from Future House Publishing in exchange for an honest review

Cindy Catt says

No spoilers.

I don't normally gravitate to sci-fi, dystopia type reads, but I started this book and read it in one sitting. I was immediately pulled in by how normal the main character was, flaws and all, and as the story progressed I longed to know his secrets.

It is so well written and edited that I was pulled along for the ride, seeing with my mind's eye things I never imagined, but Mr. Healy wrote in a fashion that made places, things, people and events seem possible.

I really enjoyed this novel, I could easily see it as a movie, I would pay to see Nope, no spoilers!

I was offered a free pre release copy of Dawn of Procyon, it is currently available for purchase

Nicole says

Dawn of Procyon is an amazing start to what looks to be a very intriguing series. Landry is a real and flawed main character who you can't help but get behind. Love the humour with HAIRI. I was all prepared to dislike Cait as well, but the Author crafts such a complex character that I couldn't help but like her immensely. The world building and character development are well thought out and flow seamlessly with the plot, leaving you deeply connected to both the characters and the story. I can't wait for the next novel in the series to find out what happens. Great book. A must read!

Larry Griffiths says

Larry's take

Very good characters and well written. This follows along with Mark's previous books which are very interesting reads. Keep up the good work Mark we're ready for more.

Danielle Mitchell says

This book was amazing! I read it in one day, in one sitting, and I don't even feel guilty! I must say, this book very well written, and had me since page one! I am very hesitant on reading Sci-Fi books, but I am glad I got the opportunity to receive this book for free #Tomoson. Definitely makes me want to read more of this authors books! #FutureHousePub

Tanya Reardon says

Dawn of Procyon is a thrilling sci-fi book with a good plot that keeps the reader wondering how it will end. Landry is a great main character who is not your everyday hero in fact in his world he is not a hero at all. When Landry's only friend convinces him to help him go off base to save his friend from being shipped back to Earth Landry hesitantly agrees. Landry embarks on an adventure with only a little bit of oxygen and water left he has to find a way to warn his people that there is an even greater Argoni threat than anyone could imagine. Will Landry make it back in time. All I can say is it's worth the read to figure out.

I did receive this Dawn of Procyon at a discounted price in exchange for my review. I honestly recommend this book to any sci-fi lover.

Anni (Tea in the Treetops) says

Wow... I was on the edge of my seat all through this! Full review very soon, once I go hide under my bed for a little while...

Review posted on Tea in the Treetops in April 2016:

In the not-too-distant future, humans will invent the fold engine, making it possible to head out across star systems. Almost as soon as they start heading out, they are followed back by a strange race of space travelers. These creatures are called the Argoni by the humans, and they immediately attack Earth without provocation or warning. A war begins, and the humans continue to spread among the stars, establishing bases on far planets to catch incoming Argoni attacks as they fold through space.

Dawn of Procyon is about one such base on the world of Proc-One, but it is actually a dual story between

Landry, a Op-tech supervisor, and one of his staff, Cait. When Landry finds himself stranded away from the base, he has to try everything he can to signal for help. There's an Argoni (not-so-affectionately known as 'Toads' by the Marines) hanging around, and Landry's not really sure what it wants, or why it hasn't killed him already. Meanwhile, Cait is happy to step into the job of supervisor, but she has a feeling that something isn't quite right with Landry's disappearance.

This was a really interesting story about trying to keep a foothold on a world that is foreign to two separate races. Nothing is known about the biology of the Argoni, as their bodies break down quickly when they are captured or killed. I love hard sci-fi involving properly alien races, where every interaction is totally unknown. It makes for such a nail-biting story!

Each of the characters have excellent back stories that make them feel very realistic. It's the details that make it, like the workers in the maintenance section who mention that they're going out for a drink to honour the lost pilot, Gus. The flashbacks Landry has to the time before he left Earth are heartbreaking, but outside of the flashbacks I did love HAIRI, the AI module with added personality. Some of those conversations had me giggling to myself on the train.

I only had one issue with the way the ending played out. I'll try not to be spoilery here, but a discovery is made late in the story that reveals a lot of the Argoni's motivation. It helped the story to move along, but it did have a touch of deus ex machina about it. In any case, the ending was satisfying. I feel there is plenty more to come, involving the outpost, the 'illegals' and if course, the war with the Argoni.

In all, a great hard sci-fi thriller. I'll be looking out for more of Brisbane-based Mark Healy's work.

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