



A King's Ship

D.J. Holmes

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The war with China is over. But for Captain James Somerville there is a task still unfinished.

Former Politburo Intelligence Minister Chang has evaded capture and escaped from Chinese space. Declared a war criminal by the UN and British law courts, James is given the Royal Space Navy's newest exploration cruiser and sent after Chang.

His chase will threaten to stir up old rivalries and take him to the edge of explored space. What he will discover there will radically reshape humanity's position in the galaxy and throw him into a series of desperate battles. Alone and outnumbered he will come to realize what it really takes to command a King's Ship.

A King's Ship is the second book in the Empire Rising military science fiction series that follows the career of Captain James Somerville as he takes command of HMS Endeavour.

A King's Ship Details

Date : Published August 30th 2016

ISBN :

Author : D.J. Holmes

Format : Kindle Edition 452 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, War, Military Fiction, Space, Space Opera, Military Science Fiction

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From Reader Review A King's Ship for online ebook

Jesse Fort says

Good action and political intrigue

I find it refreshing to get a good military sci-fi book written from the perspective of a nation other than america. I am American but I still find it cool. The action is spaced out with political intrigue in between. The plot is well thought out and the book flows very nicely. I found a few editing mistakes but not many. The book is well written. I will be anticipating the next book in this series.

Leigh Ives says

I found that the story was a good progression from the first book. Lovable characters and I wanted to see their adventures which kept me wanting to read.

It is not the most technical book I have ever read but in this case, that's not a bad thing. Nice and easy to read and looking forward to getting started on the third book

allan graham says

Great

Loving this series, star trek original but better and with some great twists. Get the series if your looking for break neck action

Shane says

The continuing adventures of Captain James Sommerville. This book packs quite a lot into its pages, maybe too much. The discovery of Haven and not one, but two alien races could maybe been told as two separate books. I can not review my wishes, I must review the book as written. I like the way the characters continue to develop and even change as the universe around them changes. Life isn't static and characters shouldn't always be either. Some of the development seems stretched, but that may very well be from trying to cram so much into just one book.

The military engagements are more spaced out with greater diversity. It's nice to see something besides one ship going alone against a superior force (although there is plenty of that as well). Some of the action seems repetitious but the addition of politics and intrigue begin to add more dimension not only to the characters but to the story as well.

There were some miss used words and some questionable punctuation but it was by no means enough to hinder the story. This is a middle book setting up the transition to a deeper tale and it mostly hits the mark.

Ken Peters says

Great series

I am looking forward to reading the next book of the series. Excellent grammar and well written. Fast moving and exciting.

Jesse Deleon says

Excellent space adventures series!

Empire Rising: A Kings Ship book 2 in the series is a excellent reading adventure that is on my reading list from now on. A fan!

Per Gunnar says

A King's Ship continues the adventures of Captain James Somerville that started in The Void War. The Chinese war is over and, as the blurb states, James is assigned the task of apprehending the communist war criminal Minister Chang. Little does he know that this is just the meager beginning of his adventures.

As usual I am behind with my reviews and I have actually already finished books 3 and 4 as well and, without making any spoilers, this book starts a story arc that spans at least this book and the next two books as well. For those of you who do not like long a book series without an end I want to say that each book do indeed have a proper conclusion to its own part of the main story arc.

This book has much of the same qualities as the previous book of course. A true and true hero in Captain Somerville and nice and well done characters overall. Nice world building. I still do like the British Monarchy in space universe. Very good action, especially the space combat but also the marine action. Everything in the universe makes sense, or at least as much sense as one can expect from a work of fiction, including when it comes to technology, physics, strategy and tactics.

Apart from what I liked in the previous books there are also a number of additional goodies that are on my things to like list. Like mystery, discovery and...okay a minor spoiler here...ALIENS!

Unfortunately there are also some of the elements that I was not so keen on in the first book remaining in this one. Primarily bullshit politics and constipated assholes in the form of politicians and oxygen wasting superior officers.

Well, one cannot have it all I guess. Overall I quite liked this book but then you probably guessed that when I wrote that I have already read the next two ones.

Cst says

This is how you tank potential.

I thought the series had potential, it wasn't exactly breaking new ground but there was promise. I can't even really say when this happened, but somewhere through this I had this realization that this was a bad book. It was neither the setting nor the action – although the battles suffer badly from “space is the ocean” idiocy and a warship is somehow crewed by about ten people – but the characters that killed it. Well, the main character. The Hero. The person who defines what is right and wrong and who sucks every bit of suspense and tension out of the story. The opposition ranges from “cartoonishly evil” to “disagrees with the Hero” and that one had me shouting at the text.

I soon realized I didn't care about the character or the rest of the story. It developed exactly as I suspected and I am convinced it will continue to do so on a larger scale. I don't care.

Steve Hunt says

Disappointing weak sci war fantasy

It's like the author has little knowledge and less interest in science, physics or anything related. They also depict people as simple, 1 dimensional caricatures. I can't find anything to recommend about this book, thoroughly dull.

BobA707 says

Summary: Classic space opera, some politics, plenty of action. Odd to have Great Britain as a major space power. A lost colony, 2 sets of alien races and a war criminal dealt with - all gets packed in to book 2, non-stop action

Plotline: This is the second series I have recently with an unnecessary and silly mutiny. Apart from that loads of action, a little far fetched in places, but great reading. Subtlety is not one of DH's strengths.

Premise: Not particularly detailed but the 'shift drive' seems to work, more intrigue added in this book

Writing: Simple descriptive, the reader is right there in the midst of the action

Ending: Well complete British victory ... what else ?

Pace: Never a dull moment!

Mick Bird says

Great follow up

Really enjoyed reading book two of this series. We continue to follow Captain Somerville and his crew have a new ship. They have been given a task to capture Crang, but as normal things never go as planned. James finds himself in the middle of a fight, and first contact with alien forces. I recommend that if you enjoy a great read pick up this series of books.

Christopher Bray says

Enjoyable story, but I have to say just like the first one there are so many spelling mistakes, and other simple errors that it became massively frustrating to read at points.

On one occasion the author actually managed to spell a characters name wrong.

Whilst there is often one or maybe two minor errors in spelling or grammar in a book I don't think I've ever read a published book with as many errors as there have been in the first two of this series.

I only hope the author got someone to properly proof read the remaining books in the series.

Frank Bertino says

Possibilities Abound

James the son of a disgraced Duke looks to the space navy for meaning since the love of his life is now someone else's wife for political reasons. James is a competent compelling character. The characters feel real. I like the action and a bit of romance. Will James hook up with Susanna in Haven? I look forward to the next book.

Jim says

This is a very good book with a distinctly British flare. Our starship is the HMS Endeavor, captained by Captain James Somerville, Duke of Beaufort. In our previous book, we learned that Captain Somerville is not one of the crown's favorites. In fact, he was put on the HMS Endeavor to get him out of the Solar System and as far away from the Empire as possible. If you remember, Captain Somerville was in a romantic affair with the King's daughter, Christine. Unfortunately, the King did not want this romance to take place and he tried everything possible to make James give it up, but since, James was a Duke, he couldn't just stick him in prison. And, Christine also knew that their romance wasn't going to go very far because she had responsibilities to the Crown that were not matters of the heart. Eventually, and as part of a peace settlement with the Chinese, Princes Christine had to marry the Chinese Emperor! So, Captain James Somerville asked for a long term mission that would get him away from all the happenings on Earth. His Uncle happened to be his superior officer, Admiral of the Red Jonathan Somerville, and he obliged by cutting those mission orders

knowing it would take the HMS Endeavor a very long way from Earth and require quite a long time. Their mission outwardly, was to explore space and report back anything that would be of benefit to the Empire. Covertly, their mission was to find and apprehend former Chinese Minister Chang.

The former Chinese Minister was wanted as a war criminal, to be tried by a British court. Captain Somerville orders were very clear: apprehend Chang using whatever means necessary regardless of situation. Anyone giving aid or providing a safe haven for Chang was to be considered a war criminal also and treated accordingly. So, with some very open ended orders, Captain Somerville and the HMS Endeavor set off for the last known location of Chang which happened to be in Indian space. From there he follows a very interesting trail that leads him and his ship to some very strange places. According to some, he far exceeds his orders, oversteps his authority, and recklessly endangers his entire crew. Yet, the situations he found him and his crew in, required Captain Somerville to adhere to long established British traditions and basic humanitarian expectations. While his ship was built for exploration and not necessarily a British Ship-of-the-Line, she could fight and give a good accounting of herself. The HMS Endeavor would find itself fighting for its own survival and that of an entire species.

This is a very interesting and exciting story. There is a lot to it. When you think it should just about be over, it continues on another track which is a logical next step in the HMS Endeavor's mission, maybe. As a Captain of a starship, far removed from the Admiralty and any means of communicating with HQ, the person in charge is the Captain, without question. Captain Somerville shows what it's like to make hard decisions and not back down when the going gets tough. I like that although, I can see where he probably did exceed his given authority in several instances. But, as usual, those indiscretions are usually overlooked when the outcome is extremely favorable. And, the HMS Endeavor does come back home safe and sound.

The British twist on this story is kind of interesting. Since I'm an American, I can see some differences in their approach to some of the problems they faced. I do not think an American starship Captain would have been as diplomatic in some situations as was Captain Somerville. Additionally, they seemed to be a lot of sole searching about whether they were doing the right thing even after they had made their decisions. I don't think an American Captain, in the same position, would have done this. Once the decision is made, the action is taken and we tend to move on. The British seem to dwell on what they did in the past a little too much. Of course this is all my opinion and can just be ignored.

I'm looking forward to the next book in this series. The way this one ended, there should be plenty of room for additional books since there are already rumblings from the Indian Empire about what and where Captain Somerville found during his "exploration" mission. Every nation on Earth is obviously looking out for their own interest and looking for an easy target. Could be some very interesting stories coming up.

Duane Warren says

Outstandingly done

I think any sci fi ppl will love this. I promise it's worth the read. Holmes is cementing his place with the likes of Hubbard and Asimov and other great space sci-fi novelists. I much prefer him to the older crew.

Three books are destined to become classics among the greats. I know you have a life Mr Holmes but please never stop sharing your stories. You are predicting mankind's future.i really believe that.

