



Destiny Lost

M.D. Cooper

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Sera leads a simple life.

A little smuggling, some drinking contests, and captaining her star freighter, Sabrina. But when she picks up a mysterious shipping container on Coburn Station, things begin to go wrong. She finds herself at odds with The Mark, a dangerous pirate organization that wants the cargo on her ship.

Inside the container she not only finds a woman, but a secret thought lost millennia ago. The woman is Tanis Richards, and she knows the location of the Intrepid, a missing colony ship from humanity's golden age.

Sera knows how to help Tanis and the Intrepid. But to do that, she will need to reveal a secret that will pull her back into a life she left long ago. A life from which she was exiled in shame and disgrace.

Tanis doesn't trust Sera; and Sabrina's rag-tag crew is nothing like what she's used to, but she's going to have to rely on them to avoid capture and get back to the Intrepid. As Tanis and Sera battle pirates and interstellar governments, the two women forge a friendship that will forever shape the destiny of humanity.

Destiny Lost Details

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From Reader Review Destiny Lost for online ebook

Carolyn F. says

Audiobook

I think the problem with this book is that I was simultaneously reading a really good sci-fi book with a really good female captain. This book I couldn't figure out who was the main character. Then the secret Sarah didn't want to mention - "Okay, I'm finally ready to tell you my secret. Oh wait, there's an emergency. I'll get back to you." Then Sarah is saying I'm tired of killing, leaves a baddie alive, then the baddie is still evil. So even though Sarah's AI was so proud of her for not killing the baddie, now she's going to kill 1000's of people but most of them kind of deserve it. From one extreme to another. It seems the author couldn't make up her mind what type of person Sarah was including trying to figure out who the main protagonist was. The book ends in a cliffhanger too. Too bad!

Patrick Barnes says

Awesome adventure

The story is another of his typically well written and fast paced novels.

A cast of great characters with clear motivation, interesting backstories creating story enriching dialogue. ✓

A background universe with a lot of possibilities for future story development and high plausibility. ✓

A plot that promises an exciting series and unexpected twists. ✓

Smooth writing in general and decent editing. ✓

He as usual has covered every box. I like all his books and will certainly read the next volume in the series.

Nancy says

Captain Sera, star freighter captain and erstwhile smuggler, picks up a cargo meant for one of the pirates she does business with. But curiosity gets the better of her, and she opens the container. Inside is a woman who claims she's a major from a fleet attached to a lost colony ship, the Intrepid. The Intrepid is highly valuable for reasons Tanis soon learns.

General Tanis Richards awakens years in the future and tells a half-truth about her identity. She needs Sera's help to find her ship. But as Sera dodges the pirate who is on their trail, she is captured. Tanis can't abandon the captain who saved her and leads the crew on a rescue mission. Sera, more resourceful than she appears, meets the rescue team and makes it back to her ship. Now Tanis realizes Sera has technology at her disposal that an ordinary freighter captain wouldn't have. They're both keeping secrets. Can they trust each other long enough to find the Intrepid and defend the ship against the various forces who want it?

Jonmontanavega says

Wow! Two strong women, each playing a major role in doing what's right for their people, their crews, their worlds/universe, in this space opera series. I haven't read any of the many books set in this universe by Mr. Cooper before.

Apparently one of the women (Tanis) was a lead in an earlier series, while this first book in a spin off series (several thousand years later) features another woman with agency, Sera, who appears initially to be a space freighter / smuggler vessel captain.

While author Cooper has no extraordinary writing talent / wordsmithing, and the course of events is usually predictable, The Orion War is fun space opera with what are sometimes labeled "action heroines." Were it not that I like books with female MCs with agency, this is probably a 4 star book.

For those of you, and I'm one of you, that think that women warriors of the future are unlikely to be clad in very form fitting gear ... this book and series adheres to the fiction that women's curves are meant to be flaunted in cover art and on space ships. Who knew?

JPT says

Audiobook

Story: B, Narration: B

I didn't realize when I started this audiobook that it was a continuation of a series I'd previously read (in ebook form). Frankly, if I had known, I wouldn't have picked this up because I was pretty annoyed with the first 3 books--mostly, but not exclusively, because of the cliffhanger endings. Grrr.

Luckily, I liked this book better than I thought and it wasn't hard to get back into things. I like the new characters on board the smuggler ship, in particular.

What I didn't like as much:

--Story dragged in places. I kept wanting it to move along already.

--Tanis is portrayed as being so amazing, but does make stupid mistakes, primarily by being too overconfident.

--Another cliffhanger. Guess that's a given with this series.

--Almost all of the primary female characters, while confident and competent, are hyper-sexualized. Maybe it's just me, but I'm pretty over the skin-tight cat suits. It's the future and all so maybe that's the norm and I'm hopelessly old-fashioned, but then why is it just the women? How come the men all get to wear "normal" clothes and not sexy-suits, too?

--Sera's big secret was pretty obvious from the start. (Maybe it was supposed to be.)

Normally, I really like Khristine Hvam, the narrator, but this wasn't one of her better efforts. I wasn't keen on the various accents she tried out. Some of that may be my issue since many of the voices/accents were the same ones she uses for the Jane Yellowrock books and I simply found it disconcerting. It kept pulling me out of the storyline when I made mental comparisons.

Since these books/audios are on KU, I may continue--although it's a pretty big commitment because there are a lot of books. TBH, if they weren't KU, I probably wouldn't bother.

Scott says

After the previous events from the tie in Intrepid saga , this is the first book of a new series called Orion War, even after surviving battle it seems the risks of space travel cause major issues for the crew of ISS Intrepid , especially Tanis as she soon finds ejected from the ship and looking for some well needed help. Luckily it seems smugglers working for Pirates on their cargo yacht Sabrina help out.

Worse the dreams of the Intrepid look to be for nothing as they soon find 5000 years have passed with Humanity using FTL to seed the stars but losing Wars , Tech, their morals and it now seems there is massive collusion between interested parties as everyone is out for the secrets the Intrepid carries from a time of what is now called a Golden Age.

It seems no where is safe for any of the Intrepid crew but Tanis finds some unlikely new friends and she finds herself risking everything again for her new ship mates as she tries returning back to the Intrepid.

An excellent story which shows great flair for futuristic tech in an all too plausible future and a breadth of new characters soon to become central parts of the Aeon 14 universe

Mick Bird says

Great series

This series gets better with each book, Tanis is been moved not willing. But her luck turns when she is helped along by the crew of the ship Sabrina. They are able to return to the Intrepid, but the fun has just began.

Sarah says

I received this book ahead of time in exchange for an honest review which for me wasn't hard as I've bought the previous three books and enjoyed them thoroughly. This book took a bit of a new direction and introduced a few new characters. I struggled at first as the whole tone of the series changed somewhat from the more militaristic overtone to a more unstructured ship and crew with the new colorful characters. It definitely took me some time to develop an attachment to the newly introduced characters and even then I didn't necessarily like or understand all of them (particularly the nymphomaniac). However, by the end of the book I was left curious as to where the story is headed and how the Intrepid fits into everything. There was still a lot of action throughout the book and I was happy when Tanis finally stepped up back into a leadership role. I did like the character of Sera and I'm very interested to know more of the background to this character and how she will fit in as the series progresses. Overall, an interesting digression from the main story line

which adds some new elements. I think the author has just opened up a whole new fascinating storyline with some foreshadowing of greater conflict to come for the Intrepid, Tanis and her crew. I'm very excited to find out how this is all going to play out!

Gareth says

Initial thoughts when first reading were: Another great story. Quite a twist / jump at the beginning, but allowed for some interesting new dynamics. Tanis continuing to grow, and Sera an interesting new character, if at the beginning seemed a touch Mary Sueish. I do wonder if the Intrepid will ever find peace.

Having reread this a few times, I find now that the 'Intrepid Saga' / first 3 books were very much setting the scene / view of the initial characters / Intrepid, ready for the transition through to the Destiny Lost time-frame. Certainly the feel shifts, but I think for the better, as allows for more immediate impacts of actions, and allows for a greater variety of groups to come into play as well. It becomes clearer why Sera is able to achieve what she can, so not a Mary Sue character by any means. Science still hard, but due to the nature of it, some leaps have to be made, but are done in a plausible fashion based on current scientific theories

Josh says

This is pure popcorn sci-fi. It's everything you would expect to see in a b-movie Sci-fi Channel show: hypersexualized, buxom vixens (with incredibly common names such as Jessica, Helen, Rebecca in a story set around 9000AD) strutting around space ships wearing skimpy clothing and using technology without much explanation, and a world with just enough story to keep things moving on to the predictable end. All the familiar tropes are there to help you keep comfortable and avoid thinking too much, right from the first scene which is a carbon copy of the drinking game in Raiders of the Lost Ark. The only reason I finished it was because I had it on audio and put it on 2.5x speed just to get through.

Eric says

Brief summary – The Intrepid got caught in a spatial anomaly which propels them 5000 years into the future and they overshoot their destination. Coming out of the anomaly, the ship is damaged and Tanis barely survives by getting to an escape pod. She ultimately comes to the care of the Sabrina and her crew.

Friendships and alliances are formed, a lot of action happens rescuing the Sabrina's captain Sera from the pirates who in turn kidnap her. Sabrina takes Tanis back to the Intrepid to find it under siege by several forces who want their technology.

This is the introduction of Sera into the story line as well as Sabrina and her crew. They are the main focus of the Perseus Gate series, also an excellent read.

I really like the strong female leads in this series. My previous reviews focus on the strengths of Tanis Richards who again shows how amazing she is. Sera is a new enigma for much of the book but just as strong a leader with her own demons and flaw. I'd be remiss if I ignored mentioning the strengths of Jessica or AI Angela. One of the things I like best in this series is how Mr Cooper shows that while technology can solve one problem, it often creates new unforeseen problems. Sentient AI's resulting in the Sentience Wars, FTL travel resulting in system wide conflict and the almost destruction of the human race, and picotech making

the Intrepid a target for all greedy or power hungry governances are just a few examples. Mr Cooper put a lot of thought into the ramifications each new discovery would have on the universe.

I love this series! I started reading it at the recommendation of a friend. During the course of a month, I binge read the entire series that was available including the Perseus Gate side series. With apologies to Mr Cooper, binge reading makes for difficult reviews as the story of individual novels blur together. I'm now re-reading the entire series and reviewing each before I start the next.

Maria Dimitrova says

Sci-Fi in its pure state! And I loved it. Sarah - the captain of the starship Sabrina is an incredible kick-ass female - one that would make a much better role model for girls than what pop culture is currently pushing on us. Sure she has her share of flaws but what human doesn't? Her crew are fun and bizarre but also loyal and smart. I especially liked Nancy with her phobia of germs :D The worldbuilding is incredible and I loved the realistic way it represents humanity. It shows just how bad we are but also the potential for great discoveries.

If I have a complaint it's that this is listed as the first book of a series when it's in fact more like the 4th one. I suppose that it can be read without the previous books (like I did because I was unaware of the existence of the previous books) but I'm sure I would have enjoyed Tanis Richards and her ship and crew a lot more if I'd read the rest of the Intrepid Saga.

Shannon says

Pure space pulp: A sexy space marine, a starship captain, and their clever AI sidekicks fight space pirates.

gradedog says

This 4th installment took a different direction after the rather abrupt cliff hanger that ended the previous nook. I find myself enjoying this series more than I expected after struggling a bit to get through the first installment.

One thing that nagged me throughout the series, and more so in this book, is how the women characters, despite being true badasses, worry about their bodies and sexuality so much. I mean it's fine I suppose. But in a future society with so much body modifications and fashion statements to heighten sexual attractiveness and desire, it is noticeable that none of the male characters seem to be into it, or at least the author only bothers to describe it with the women characters. Comes off kind of gratuitous to me.

Oh and get a better proofreader. Tons of grammar mistakes isn't a deal breaker as the story still shines through, but come on.

Finally, I know we aren't supposed to judge books by their covers, but the cover art of these books are spectacularly cheesy.

In spite of these I nevertheless enjoyed this book, the series, and will very likely read the next installment when it comes out.

Kara says

“Destiny Lost (The Orion War: Book 1) aka (The Intrepid Saga #4)” is not lesfic, but features terrific women characters as leads in a kick-ass hard-SciFi space opera!

I picked up “Destiny Lost” on a recent two-for-one sale on Audible. It was my introduction to what turns out to be an expansive universe from author Cooper. Reviewers noted that it could be read stand-alone, but that you might benefit from first reading books 1-3 of The Intrepid Saga.

I’m glad I started with “Destiny Lost”. I’ve since immediately begun buying and listening to the Intrepid Saga books, and I’m currently 25% into that series book #3. I like the Intrepid Saga books, but so far, I still like “Destiny Lost” best. Had Book 1 of the Intrepid Saga been the book on sale, I probably would not have rushed so quickly into reading more of the series.

Okay, back to “Destiny Lost”. It’s terrific! For SciFi fans, it’s got lots of space action, embedded AI’s, nanotech, picotech, pirates and corrupt governments. The narration is absolutely fantastic.

What’s really important for me, and unusual for SciFi with a military SciFi bent, is that lots of the main characters are women. And WOW! what women they are! Sera is the mysterious and wisecracking Captain of the starship Sabrina...and yes...Sabrina is female. They pick up the also mysterious Tanis Richards, whom everyone in the known universe wants to capture. Tanis’ embedded AI, Angela, is also female. One of the chief supervillain pirates is also a woman. Just because women are involved, though, don’t think the torture scenes aren’t gruesome!

Cheeky, the pilot for Sabrina, is hilarious. She’s a flirtatious nymphomaniac who happily plays with any gender. Happily for me, given that the book really is mainly hetero, there is no explicit sexual action in the book - only SciFi battle action.

There are lots of terrific secondary characters, and the banter between everyone is very enjoyable. The only minor flaws are that given 5,000 years have passed between some of the characters (ahhh....stasis, FTL and relativity....what fun!), it’s a bit hard to believe that language and even idioms don’t seem to have changed. Oh well....it would have been a distraction to the reader, but perhaps they could have at least admitted using Babelfish.

The book does end with a cliffhanger of sorts, which isn’t surprising since it’s a multi-part series. Book #2 is due to be released on Audible in just a few days, so I guess I’ll go shopping again soon. 5* for fun, fun, fun....though without the lesfic aspect of fun, fun, fun.
