



Rising Force

Ken Lozito

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Eight months have passed since the Star Shroud barrier was engaged to protect the Earth, but it won't last, and humanity is scrambling to build a fleet.

Cut off from home, the crew of the Athena has taken refuge on the Boxan colony world, a last safe haven for the creators of the Star Shroud. When Kaylan forms a psychic link to a mysterious Boxan soldier fighting gruesome battles on a dying world she has to act even if the Boxans refuse.

Rising Force is the fifth book in the Ascension space opera series. Kaylan will risk the Alliance to uncover the secrets of the Boxan home world and mount a daring rescue mission for those left behind. She just needs to find a way past a planetary quarantine zone that has kept the Confederation at bay for over fifty years.

Rising Force Details

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Author : Ken Lozito

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From Reader Review Rising Force for online ebook

Jay Batson says

If you're reading this review, then you've likely read all the books in this series up until this one. So you know the characters, the various plots in-play, and are probably trying to decide whether to continue in the series and read this one.

I'll say Yes - but know that this is not the last book in the series; there is clearly more to come. And I think the author is pushing things a bit to keep this series going much more beyond the next book. In fact, I actually wish it was all wrapped up in this one (though that would be a major rewrite).

The story is taking too long to develop. I like all the things - the characters, plots, etc. But, there's sooooo story-extension going on here, and it's time to wrap it up. Which is why my review went from 5 stars for the book immediately prior to this, and 3 here.

So, read this one, then let's hope all the good guys in this universe win over the bad guys in some unexpected way in the next book. If it doesn't wrap up next time, I'm predicting an even lower star review from me.

Jim says

This series is getting somewhat better although it's also predictable. As we last left the series, Zack, had just re-enable the Star Shroud around Earth thereby saving the Earth from attack by the Xiiginns. Their conquest fleet was cut in half with most of those ships inside the Shroud destroyed. I said most, but not all. Of course Earth was being aided by the Boxans who then returned to Earth and decided that they would turn over their advanced technology in order to get Earth up to speed for defending itself. Surprisingly no one thought to go search for any Xiiginns that might have been trapped on the inside of the Shroud.

So, with the Athena, Earth's first starship, stuck outside the Shroud and with Zack unable to figure out how to now disable the Shroud, they go to Olloron, the colony world of the Boxans to figure out their next step. Of course, the humans aren't just standing around. They are sticking their noses into things that really don't pertain to their situation and the Boxans let them get away with it. Kaylan, the human commander, is especially nosy since she has a very, very well developed Mardoxian potential which allows her to see things others can't. She has found out that they are Boxans still on their home planet of Sethion. For this Boxans, the very mention of Sethion is taboo since they feel a deep shame while leaving their home planet and other Boxans behind while they flee the Xiiginns. The Boxans on Olloron have declared their home planet Sethion as a quarantined planet, a dead planet, with no reason for them to ever return. Yet, Kaylan keeps digging into their reasoning and finds that it's not justifiable to leave their on kind on a dead planet when they have been calling for rescue for years.

So, of course, this book is all about the rescue of the Boxans stranded on Sethion. It's not what the Boxan High Council wants done, but the humans seem to be acting as if they know what's best for the Boxans. It's just amazing that Kaylan hasn't been shot or imprisoned for what she has done or is doing. She does get all the Athena crew involved which seems like it's really a distraction from what they need to be doing and that's finding a way back to Earth.

In the meantime, the Earth Coalition Force (ECF), stupidly sends out a practically unarmed shuttle to find out why one of the Shroud sensors keeps going off. It is captured by the only remaining Xiiginns inside the Shroud and they fly to Earth orbit. The three Boxans that were aboard the shuttle have been taken over by the Xiiginns and are now on missions to assassinate certain members of the ECF. Here's where I get confused. The Boxans are 10 feet tall and I believe the Xiinginns are about similar in height. The author indicates that the Xiiginns can infiltrate Earth now since they are so close. I don't think 10 foot tall aliens can infiltrate anything on Earth without being spotted so I don't know why this can be so. And, they know they came back on the shuttle so why hasn't the ECF just destroyed the orbiting shuttle? It didn't go back to where it came from, i.e., the ECF moon base.

Anyway, the story hasn't ended, in fact, I think it's just beginning. The Shroud is shrinking and won't last for ever so Earth had better get itself ready for an Xiiginn invasion. I think I'm looking forward to book six.

Steven Brown says

Ken Lozito keeps the reader interested while setting up the finale.

The story is told in third person omniscient as the rest of the series but there is less head hopping for the most part then in the beginning of the series. They are shifts in perspective but it feels a lot more like a third person limited point of view story. The style is a quick fast paced but relatively easy sci-fi story. It is soft sci-fi for the most part but the characters are engaging and the dangers feel real.

What is funny is the author's tendencies in stories seems to span all three of his universes. We get cerebral implants along with nanite technology within the human body for enhancement, Halo screens, the use of smart body armor and clothing that fits to form. There's also the most odd use of the word thickening that keeps popping up in every book multiple times when a character gets emotional that their throats thinking. While I understand it it just doesn't feel right reading lol. I think because I have ran across a few romances that that word is used more in a sexual nature. In any case it's one of the authors tales in a word and situation he loves to use.

The story is clean straightforward and without graphic violence or really any sexual situations. It is age appropriate for young adults and above but I would even say that preteens wouldn't have to worry about reading this book. At the same time the series does have more of an adult feel because there's really none of the elements you would find in young adult stories.

Megan says

Heroes again!

Athena's crew is predictably heroes again and have proved their worth to all Boxans. I enjoyed the path this book took and am very excited to read the next book in the series!

Louise Robbins says

Rising excitement

As the series draws to a close and the enemy draws ever nearer to Earth the excitement builds. Our intrepid adventures "dodge bullets" while discovering more about the universe and the world's in it as they desperately try to find a way back to Earth. Meanwhile Earth teeters on the point of an alien invasion as in true human reaction chaos abounds and politics conflict with the right thing to do. The World waits for Athena's crew and new found allies to save it, but will they get there before the damage is done? The book in the series will tell I guess, better read it!!

David P. Duffy says

Lowered Quality Writing, Editing, and Plot Abound

The fifth and latest installment by Mr. Ken Lozito, in his "Ascension Series," is "Rising Force." Heretofore, Mr. Lozito, has exhibited a decent level in his writing, editing, and plot/plot devices. There has been a marked drop-off in quality in all areas. It is an indication of laziness and shoddy workmanship.

The story continues with the Drar upgraded human starship and its approaching sentience AI, "Athena," orbiting the Boxan colony world, as the human crew trains with their allies, their CO, "Kaylan," becomes adept at using her "Mardoxian" abilities, and the Boxans increase their "stealthy" attempts at forcing free the Drar tech of "Athena." Further acerbating frictions, the perceived "visions" of Kaylan, of surviving, non- "Xiigin" infected Boxans, on the Boxan quarantined home world, and her aim, with select Boxans, to rescue the survivors, leads to unilateral actions. Meanwhile, back in Earth's Sol System, competing national governments attempt to form a unified "Earth Coalition Force (EFC)," in order to both build a space based military, with its needed warships and weapons, and work with the Boxan crews, who survived the previous battles with Xiiginns, prior to the "Star Shroud" barrier being turned on. Additionally, the Xiiginns who sacrificed half their warship and crew in Book 4, still remain undiscovered within the "Star Shroud" barrier.

Firstly, the author has succumbed to needless repetition in his writing, repeating descriptions in narratives, and using words over and over (i.e. "...remnants..."). This is a failure of the author and his editor. More onerous is the threadbare plot and plot devices. Where in prior books of the series, a reader could glide over growing small holes and glitches, Mr. Lozito, in his latest book, a reader is forced to make great leaps, suspending basic credulity. The plot and contrived devices do not pass muster. Some examples: the Xiiginns use a pheromone, basically a natural organic bio-weapon, to take control of other species. Some species, such as the Boxans, are especially susceptible, while others, such as humans, are more of a mixed bag. "Rising Force," is the fifth book, yet the author still has not had either the technologically advanced Boxans, nor humans, attempt to develop any defense or offense against their enemies' most demonstrably potent weapon. There is no research into testing, vaccines, antidotes, self-destruct failsafes, or even basic filtering devices. Come on, really? Surveillance drones monitoring the "Shroud" barrier, keep going down in the Sol System. Is there any potential threat analysis, that maybe some Xiiginns might be floating around within the barrier? Nah, of course not. Everything is hunky-dory, no need to fret. [Spoilers Alert] When a mixed human-Boxan shuttle crew are captured by Xiiginns, the humans show no suspicion, take no actions, when

confronted by the aberrant behavior of their fellows, after being separated and in contact with the Xiiginns. Huh? An additional "new" moon orbits Earth, yet no mention of the implications of gravitational forces on Earth, the "old" moon, etc. Again, the author just ignores the inanity of plot/plot devices issues, all self-created.

Each reader of SciFi, according to their own personal dictates, allow an author liberties with regard to credulity. For this reader, Mr. Lozito has abused those liberties.

"Rising Force," is not recommended and was fully read via Kindle Unlimited.

Claude Newby says

Claude

A great series so far and I expect the same for Book 5: great description while respecting the reader's imagination; creation of names for characters and places that are distinct enough to keep sorted out; and A self respecting writer whose confidence is such that relies on his talent rather than on bedroom action or gutter language.

A great

Mick Bird says

Great series continues

Book 5, has continued the story of the crew Athena. We find them on the colony of Boxans, Kaylan abilities are getting stronger, and the other members of the crew are training. The Xilgins forces that are trapped inside the SOL system are looking at continuing the next stage of the attack on earth. Kaylan is sure that there is survivors on the home planet of the Boxans, but can see get them to return and help? Looking forward to the next book.

D. Mark Detrixhe says

Earth in the squeeze

The bad guys make it to earth and our good guys are still busy out in the boonies. One thing for sure is everyone is busy preparing to protect multiple species from one that just doesn't care.

Casper Lemarque says

Series goes down the toilet.

I thought the last book was losing it, now I really feel like they lost me.

It's becoming convoluted, and miserable to read. I'm going to read the last book because I'm a completionist, but I can't say I enjoyed the last two of the series as much as the first three. I'll let you know how I feel about the last book in a bit...

N Scobie says

A thoroughly enjoyable read

A most enjoyable experience, although the main plot might be a bit predictable(and let's be honest in most books they are) the minor plots and various personnel very quickly added new twists and turns to the book. Ken very quickly draws you in and is not afraid to bring the bad as well as good sides in all us into this story. The fear of the unknown, the fear in the 'what if' scenario, The 'cosy prison' that the majority of us live in even highlighted.

Enjoy

Keith Ferguson says

Great story

I LOVED THE STORY AND ALL THE CHARACTERS WERE DEVELOPED EXTREMELY WELL!! I really enjoyed the book and will recommend it to my friends!

Russ Holthaus says

Battles Galore

The trip to Sethion was wrought with danger and adventure but our band of humans ,Narshal s and boxans save the refugees and deliver a force of boxans left behind to a refuge our story pauses and I cannot wait for more to be released. Grand read Ken .

Clare Clehane says

I tried !

Formulaic. Couldn't finish it. Characters were weak. Plot was tired. Heros were overbearing. Preaching. Humans really do know more than the ancient space faring alien species !! Sure, come to earth, we'll teach you everything you need to know !!?

John A McMorris III says

Thoroughly enjoyed the entire series!

The entire series was engaging, realistically dealing with human (and alien!) dynamics... Recommended for all who enjoy action or believable SciFi.
