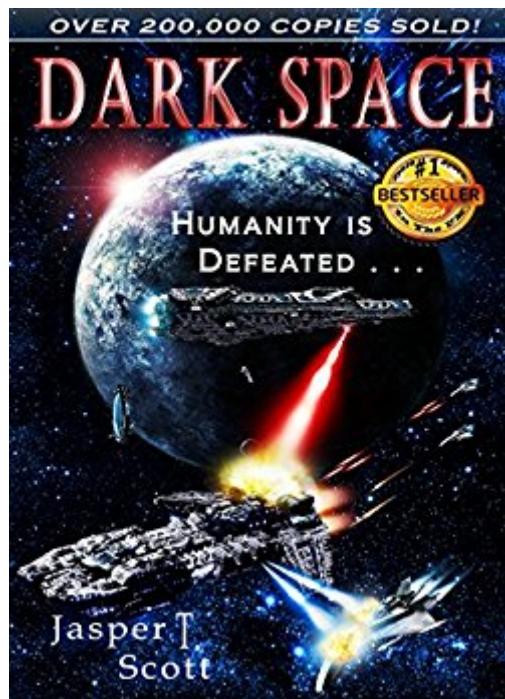


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Dark Space



Synopsis

From USA Today Bestselling Author Jasper T. Scott HUMANITY IS DEFEATED Ten years ago the Sythians invaded the galaxy with one goal: to wipe out the human race. THEY ARE HIDING Now the survivors are hiding in the last human sector of the galaxy: Dark Space--once a place of exile for criminals, now the last refuge of mankind. THEY ARE ISOLATED The once galaxy-spanning Imperium of Star Systems is left guarding the gate which is the only way in or out of Dark Space--but not everyone is satisfied with their governance. AND THEY ARE KILLING EACH OTHER Freelancer and ex-convict Ethan Ortane is on the run. He owes crime lord Alec Brondi 10,000 sols, and his ship is badly damaged. When Brondi catches up with him, he makes an offer Ethan can't refuse. Ethan must infiltrate and sabotage the Valiant, the Imperial Star Systems Fleet carrier which stands guarding the entrance of Dark Space, and then his debt will be cleared. While Ethan is still undecided about what he will do, he realizes that the Imperium has been lying and putting all of Dark Space at risk. Now Brondi's plan is starting to look like a necessary evil, but before Ethan can act on it, he discovers that the real plan was much more sinister than what he was told, and he will be lucky to escape the Valiant alive. . . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dark Space is the second in a series of classic 'westerns set in space' style of science fiction books, and one that's good fun to read. It follows a highly skilled but discredited space pilot, Ethan Ortane, on a high octane, action-packed, and fast-paced adventure through the lawless, post-apocalypse hidden refuge of Dark Space, to which the vestiges of humankind have retreated. It's a place of lawlessness, where crime lords are at loggerheads with what remains of authority. The reader joins Ethan, and his co-pilot Gina, as their debt to the criminal warlord Brondi is about to be called in. A generally well-structured plot, with plenty of twists, turns and surprises, it is on occasions let down a bit by poor detail, although it doesn't overly detract from the enjoyment. Likewise, there are a few coincidences that stretch credibility, but again these tend to be overlooked in the reader's wish to find out what's going to happen next. The story's weakest feature is its characters, none of whom were found to be at all sympathetic. Had Ethan not been so shallow, lacking in the basics of common-sense and anything more than a functioning outline of a role, then the tale would have been totally gripping. It therefore kept this reader's interest but not his emotions. Although grammatically well-written, there's a bit of 'clunkiness' to the prose that mars what is otherwise an excellently fast-flowing, well described and engaging series of combat scenes. The various battles, dog-fights and other conflicts are competently, cleanly and lucidly described, carrying the reader along with the action. This is, with no doubt, the real strength of the book, and where Mr Scott clearly has his forte.

Dark Space, by Jasper T. Scott is a rollicking space opera that kicks off a series of books in high adventure fashion. This review is based on the Kindle edition, this book is also available in paperback. Ethan Ortane is captain of a badly beat up space freighter, he already owes crime boss Alec Brondi a lot of money for previous repairs and now Ethan and his female sidekick are on the run. But you can't hide from Brondi. When Brondi catches them he forces Ethan into a deal he doesn't want. A deal that would mean he would be responsible for the loss of a great many lives. Our setting is a place called Dark Space, a galaxy within a shell of black holes. Once used as a dumping ground for convicts it is now the final refuge of humanity's remnants as they flee a merciless invasion by the Sythians who are bent on the extinction of all humankind. There are several sub-plots that wind around one another to propel the events of the story. There are surprises and twists too. The main characters are fairly strong. They're a little slow to build, but by the end of the

book I felt I knew them well enough to care about them. This will, no doubt build in the subsequent books. Dialogue was fairly natural, never cornball, but not always as smooth as I've seen. Part of this is the slow bonding with the characters: if the reader does not know the character well, it's hard to say if a statement is natural for them. The main "what's new about this" factor is the idea of a small galaxy hidden inside a cluster of black holes and this left me squinting sideways at the idea. The rest is fairly stock Sci-Fi/fantasy stuff: FTL drives, gravity plating, inertial cancellation, beam weapons.

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