



Close Proximity

Chris J. Pike , M.D. Cooper

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When Tanis Richards sold her nanotech in the Silstrand Alliance, no one could have imagined the chain of events she would set in motion.

Gedri is one of the star systems in the Silstrand Alliance...sort of.

Controlled by several crime syndicates, most of what goes on in there is the opposite of legal. The Silstrand Alliance government stays out of the system as much as possible, only intervening when things really fall apart.

That makes it the right sort of place to disappear in, or to make a quick buck.

Kylie Roads wants both. She makes her living salvaging abandoned ships left over from pirate attacks on the edges of the system—Gedri has its fair share of pirates too. Some of the hulls are legal, most aren't.

When a salvage job goes bad, Kylie finds herself on the opposite end of a gun.

Holding that gun? Silstrand Alliance military, the very people that Kylie wants to avoid.

Accused of attacking the ship they are salvaging,

Kylie makes a deal to go deep into the Gedri System on a rescue mission—it should be simple, in Gedri, nothing is as simple as it looks.

With her ex as the military liaison, Kylie takes her crew on the most dangerous mission of their lives. Rescue the girl, defeat the crime syndicates, and pray the military holds up their end of the bargain.

Close Proximity Details

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From Reader Review Close Proximity for online ebook

James Bannerman says

More branches than tree....

More surprises than birthday party for a 1000 people. The twists, the turns. This series, all of them tied together, wow. Keeps you wanting more. Great story.

Marti says

The first part of the book didn't hold my attention as well as most of M. D. Cooper's other writings but the second half made up for it. Nonstop action, nail biting suspense, and surprises around every corner!

GC Fraser says

Four stars for plot, characters and propulsive story-telling, two stars for editing.

I really like the Aeon 14 series and I think that *Close Proximity* is a worthy entry. I confess, it took me some time to adjust to the new characters, but now that I have adjusted I like them and look forward to their development.

I just wish the editors (or authors) wouldn't rely so heavily on spell- or grammar-check. And please learn the proper use of such words as lay and lie, taut and taught. I like your books, you know how to write a taut action story; proper spelling and grammar would complete my pleasure when reading them.

Mick Bird says

Kylie Rhoads is a great addition to the Aeon 14 universe! She can definitely hold her own next to Tanis and Sera. Looking forward to what Cooper has in store for her and her crew! If you want good entertainment, start with book one on each of the spin-off series that he has written in the Aeon 14 universe and have a good time.

Scott says

Good start for the Series

As the first book in the new Perllious Alliance series it takes a little while to warm up as we go through character and setting, once it settles in the action heats up and we get into the drama and battles. I feel it could be a little longer and allow us a bit more time and details but its a worthwhile lead even if there is a cliffhanger ending, luckily book 2 is out so always a plus when you can carry straight on

Lizzie says

Average and ho hum, which for me puts it at 2.5, which Amazon doesn't allow - so here I give it 2 stars and on Amazon I gave it 3 - balance it out best I can. Why only 2.5?

The story was a basic group of side characters with typical ex-spouses, motley crew, and government/military hiding the facts and lying to get the job done. Arms race on the nanonytes. Nothing in here excited me. Since the Aeon universe cliffhanger or serial aspect was expected, I bought the 2nd and 3rd books when they were on sale and I will read them. I am hoping the series gets better and Kylie expands with more depth and interest for me.

Lack of really good editing is also a commonality in the Aeon 14 universe books and annoys me along with cliffhangers. But, I think people are really fans of M.D. Cooper's multiple series of books in the this universe and ignore the things that I find disturbing or if they don't fall in love with his universe they just quickly move on. I stay because some of the characters really pulled me in. Kylie isn't one of those.

If this is your first dip into this universe... I suggest starting with a Tannis Richards or Lyssa book. Part of the reason for my suggestion is that without being exposed to more of the tech and political systems in this book, a new reader may be lacking in understanding if you start with the Perilous Alliance series. Since it is a complex group of books, the author can't repeatedly explain them or readers would get bored. Cooper does provide a guide and suggested reading order for free, so grab it if you like the first book you read.

Also, I suggest Tannis or Lyssa because those are both characters that did grab me and resulted in this being the 19th Aeon 14 book I have read.

Peter R Johnson says

Got it all.

Characters worth knowing; impossible odds beaten; things that go Boom; AI; well written, believable dialog. What more could one ask?

PJ Lea says

The problem with humanity is that there will always be those who care nothing for others and enjoy causing suffering. There are, however, those who want to help. We see both sides in this book. It has a slow start but heats right up into a story I couldn't put down. I especially liked reading certain parts from the pov of different characters.

William Howe says

Damnit, NO!!

Did no one proofread this?

Cargo "manifesto"; he pulled his jacket "taught"; the mafia boss liked to "matriculate" with the lowest common denominator. I don't even know what word to use in place of matriculate so it makes sense in the paragraph.

Not to mention how often the sentences are garbled with extra or repeated words.

I demand a certain level of professionalism when I am spending money. The characters were weak and the plot far-fetched, but I liked the universe and was hoping things were going somewhere interesting. Repeated errors that should have been caught by a competent editor or proofreader, or simply reading it yourself before publishing, rose to the level of unacceptable.

The first novel in the universe was better than this. Stop being lazy or cheap.

Jason says

It's like this wasn't even edited; if there was ever a good choice for a book to receive a revised edition, this would be it. There were a few jarring POV switches that were unnecessary, as well. Outside of Rogers and Kylie, the characters could use a bit of work. Some of their motivations were confused or didn't follow from their previous actions very well.

The biggest flaw was the ending. I get that this is a series, and the author wants to draw readers into the next volume, but a story needs to stand on its own and have some kind of ending. It needs to provide at least some closure, even while setting up the next book. I don't feel like any of that happened here; instead, we just stop mid-narrative.

Overall I enjoyed the story and plan to read the next book, but hope that it will be a bit better written.

Fiannawolf says

Please note: I'll probably pre-order everything Aeon 14 so I am biased.

You know what this stuff reminds me of? The massive history of Herbert's Dune. This series can go off on in any direction it wants. Herbert didn't get a chance to finish his series but at the rate Cooper and crew are going at, I am gonna be a happy camper for a while. Tanis has enough on her plate if any of the Bob plots are any indication. I have a feeling he's the Kosh to Tanis' Sheridan. In any event, fun series all around.

I don't have KU, so if I end up really liking something, I buy all of it, so I suppose I'll commit my wallet/funds to the deep.

So, for me at least, it was fun following a different crew. I have a feeling this will tie into the bigger picture in different ways.

Jeanne Fleming says

Fights and More Fights

Kylie and her crew are in constant danger. I don't care for all the battles. I like character development and futuristic technology. There is no rest in this book, just a constant danger, fighting, running. It has a very unsatisfactory ending. A very unhappy book. I want to get back to Tanis and Joe.

Kim Hoag says

A space opera with good guys (mostly), bad guys (definitely), and a number of fun in-betweens. Kylie is the captain of a junker who is set up by the reigning government so that she would have to pull a job for them. When a government does that, you just know that no promises are going to be kept and you are going to be screwed. No aliens, although some of the humans come close to it, and there is a lead female character who is not too badly written considering the two authors are males. There is nothing spectacular about it, however. It's good, but fairly basic. Errol Flynn in space and showing some angst when faced with lovers. I will eventually read book 2, I suppose, but not right away. I may find something better. I've been rather disappointed in the science fiction books I've found recently. They're okay as formulaic space operas, just nothing to get excited about.

muhammedallia says

I did this as an audiobook and parts of it were very difficult for me to pay attention to, despite multiple rewinding listens. The AI interface was my favorite part, and I enjoyed what little there was of the nanotechnology. The characters weren't as memorable as I'd like, being neither strongly motivated by anything or quirky enough. If you're wanting Firefly, it's not quite there, but there was some decent space adventure rescue attempts.

Sarah says

This wasn't my favourite of the books set in the Aeon 14 universe. I enjoyed the last third of the book when it got down to some serious action, but didn't care for the romantic triangle and all the skimpy dress-up infiltration prior to that. It felt slow, a little too predictable, and a bit overdone in my opinion. I realize that the story ventures in to the seedy underbelly of a certain society but I kept thinking, who in their right mind would ditch their combat armour for high heels and barely there clothing when you know the crap is going to hit the fan and the atmosphere is not friendly? I think I'd take my chances with knocking down doors but maybe that's just me. Anyway, the book ends on an exciting note and I will likely read the next one in line with hopes that the need to infiltrate sleazy brothels is over. In general I like this universe and there's some interesting tie-ins in this story. I'm looking forward to seeing how things come together.

