



Forerunner (AI Fleet Book 1)

Isaac Hooke

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A fleet of warships operated by the digitized minds of former humans.

An unknown enemy lurking in the dark of space.

The one man who hopes to conquer them both.

Jain was the lieutenant commander of an elite SEAL team. He was accustomed to order and discipline, which he used to give the men under his command that particular brand of killer instinct his unit was known for.

But one day that semi-comfortable, ordered life ended when he opened his eyes to find his body replaced by a starship. His mind had become its AI core.

He is somewhere in deep space. Most of his systems are badly damaged. He has no memory of how he got here, or what his mission is. Evidence points to an attack by an unknown entity.

He finds other damaged vessels in the vicinity and reactivates them. They, too, have no memory of the events leading up to their current situation.

Jain, thrust into a leadership role, soon learns that commanding a fleet of starships isn't all that different from leading a platoon of SEALs. It helps that his database is chock-full of tactics and military strategies gleaned from every space battle humanity has ever fought.

As he and his fleet explore their surroundings and slowly piece together what happened to them, they realize their attacker is not from any human system.

And that any misstep means not only the loss of his fleet, but potentially the destruction of humanity itself.

Forerunner (AI Fleet Book 1) Details

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From Reader Review Forerunner (AI Fleet Book 1) for online ebook

Grace Vincent says

Great story!

Written in the MindRefurb universe but several years, centuries?, have passed. Now earth has the ability to put minds in control of space ships as the controlling AI and they are almost indestructible.

As a human Jain was a navy seal when he volunteered for the program to be able to command a spaceship. When he comes on line he realizes he had lost most of his recent memory and almost all of his past. He discovers he is now an AI in a ship. He has an assistant his mind created that has brought him back online and is able to fill in some blank spots. From a fleet of 8 ships 6 have survived and five will need their AI cores rebooted. Jain is faced with repairing his fleet and finding out what happened to them.

It is a fast paced , well thought out story. It's got lots of space battle, human drama, and is a good next step for the MindRefurb universe. I enjoyed reading it very much and will continue to follow the series.

Peggy says

Interesting

This book has an interesting concept, one I haven't run across before. I very much enjoyed this aspect of the book and plan to read on to the sequel.

There are flaws in the book, though. It is good hard science fiction, but quite often it gets bogged down with too much complexity regarding the minutiae and loses the flow of the story. The background of the crew could also be explored further to help the reader establish more of a connection with them.

Overall, Mr. Hooke seemed to become more comfortable with his characters as the book progressed and I suspect this will continue into the second book and beyond. I enjoyed Forerunner, and look forward to seeing what develops next!

Richard Morton says

Like D&D with spaceships.

Forerunner makes me think, most of all, of a Dungeons & Dragons party-group adventure story with the characters as spaceships.

Some of it aspires to be hard sci-fi in a way that just falls flat with a lot of the elements in it which are anything but, but overall it was a very good, enjoyable read.

Jed says

Too slow

The story overall was interesting, unfortunately it didn't move quickly enough. There were too many details about the minutia of AI living and not enough conflict and story progression. However, the writing was good and the conflicts that did happen were well written and fun to read. I plan to continue reading and hope the pacing improves.

Norman says

Jain wakes up to find himself as an AI in a spaceship. He then finds 5 more AI both males and female in the same situation and no one knows what happened. They then find an alien spaceship which provokes them but to fight but ends up in a draw. Later they meet a fleet from Earth who does not believe their tale and they must fight them also. Luckily they have a rift craft and they can leave but meet the alien spaceship again. A well written book and a surprised ending.

Rob Enderle says

I liked the plot and concept but the amount of dialog wore on me and I found I had to push to finish the book. I prefer staying in the action and not having characters constantly argue about things like the meaning of life, existence or ... I get way too much of this in real life and prefer my entertainment to be entertainment an extension of real life verbal conflict. So three stars...

Jerry Thurber says

This was an unexpected find. I enjoyed the fast paced adventure but the highlight of the book was the clever science. Isaac knows his stuff and does a great job of integrating believable (even if extraordinary) science into this book. Clever concept, well crafted.

Norma says

"On the whim of some second rate admiral."

"Where am I? Where is my body?" When Jain awoke he seemed to be floating in deep space. And he was: his Accompanying A.I. let him view himself from outside. Jain was now a spaceship, a mind refurb - a human implanted into a machine, becoming that machine. Is he still human? The mind refurbs themselves, in the past, have often debated this very notion.

And with him are five other ships, each mind refurb controlled. Together, they are The Space Machinists.

After Mr.Hooke's excellent two series with the melding of man (and woman) and mech, these new refurbs are even bigger, better and a pleasure to read. For anyone who enjoys military science fiction action combined with larger than life characters, great dialogue and humour wrapped up in an intriguing story this is an absolute Do Not Miss.

Billy Barfield says

He does It again

The a whole new group of mind refurbs are back. As with his other series he has brought us to a new place, time and a new group to explore the reaches of space , and their own “humanity”. Oh and a serious amount of explosions, space battles, and death. I can’t wait to read the next one. If Mr. Hooke happens to read this then .. hell of a great job sir...hell of a great job.

Sean Carroll says

Good book, easy to read

Isaac Hooke is new to me. His first AI fleet book is a great sci-fi read, easy to get through and not too heavy on the science fiction bits. It is a little undeveloped in some areas when compared to other authors, but as it stands I really enjoyed this book and found it to be a refreshing new read that helped me relax into an easy to get into story at the end of a days work. It was super easy honour down and pick up throughout the week. I would recommend it to anyone.

Leslie Baptiste says

Good book, but same old story.

I enjoyed the book, I enjoyed the character, but same old story. Good guys fighting aliens with inferior technology always the underdog. I would like to see a sequel with the good guys having superior technology and whipping the aliens back sides. Will be awaiting the next book if he writes a sequel, you will enjoy this book as well.

Travis says

I was surprised at this book, it's not the typical thing this author writes, but I really liked it, If you like Jack Campbell's series with Blackjack, then you'll probably like this one, they're both fighting against impossible odds, and doing the best they can to save their home worlds, even if the people they're fighting for don't know or care it's happening. Very good stuff here, and I certainly hope there's more in the series, I'm adding this series to my watch list to be sure. Very well done here.

Michael James Dillon says

Wow just wow.

I thought these books were going to get any better and damn they got way better!

If you like somebody trying to figure their way, out against large odds, then this is the book for you because I really enjoyed it.

A great deal of action, thinking and deciding what human and non-human is, and of course never-ending stupidity of military thinking. By this book it's worth the money!

Jason says

I bought this while I was in the airport before a long flight. The flight went by in the blink of an eye!

I really like the overall idea of the book (Mind Refurbs) and the way the author approached their lives as ships. The action in the book is super well thought out, and very satisfying. I am looking forward to the next one in the series.

Minga Dotson says

Interesting take on space exploration and the problems that exploration can run into.

Nice solid story that keeps moving, with twists on the reanimation of a human mind, and questions on the topic of having a soul when you are a copy of a human mind.
