



Outcast

B.V. Larson , David VanDyke

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Star Force is called to arms again!

Many peaceful years have passed since the Macro Wars ended. Most of those who fought against the heartless machines have aged—but not the ingenious artificial construct known as Marvin. His insatiable curiosity is as strong as ever, and he's brought home fresh perils to humanity's doorstep in OUTCAST.

This new Saga in the Star Force universe begins with Cody Riggs, the sole surviving child of Kyle Riggs. He's fresh out of the Star Force Academy and ready to explore the galaxy on his own. Young but fearless, he finds himself lost in uncharted space, seeking a way home. At every step he's hunted by hostile aliens he doesn't dare lead back to Earth.

The longest book in the series, OUTCAST is a full length novel of science fiction by bestselling authors B. V. Larson and David VanDyke.

Outcast Details

Date : Published May 1st 2014 by Fireball Press

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Author : B.V. Larson , David VanDyke

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From Reader Review Outcast for online ebook

Jim says

What happens to your story hero when he gets old and apparently has accomplished everything he was planning to do? Well, you make sure he had a son some where along the way and then you start writing about his adventures. So, out goes Colonel Kyle Riggs and in comes Cody Riggs!

And as the son of most famous person in the universe, you tend to get defensive about your own actions which is just the way Cody Riggs is acting. He doesn't seem to take anything seriously. Even though he manages to graduate from Star Force Academy with his girl friend Olivia, nothing really sees to bother Cody Riggs because he knows he can't compete with this father's legacy.

Then his girl friend and finance gets killed on what was to be a pre-wedding joy ride in her fathers new space yacht. Cody doesn't know who killed her or why or even if they were really after her in the first place. But he vows to find the killers and put an end to them. In so doing, we are on another space adventure with a Riggs and eventually, Marvin. Certainly by now if you've read any of these books you have heard of Marvin and have an opinion one way or another on his value to the story line. I personally think Marvin should have been dismembered a long time ago. But no, he's still around to mess with Cody Riggs and cause trouble.

You'll find out that this story takes Cody and his fiancée sister, Adrienne, out of the Solar System and through another ring gate only this time, the ring gate is one way! Cody also meets some new aliens in this new system who at first seem friendly enough except for a slight misunderstanding in language. All six officers, including Admiral Turnbull, leave to meet with these strange looking aliens and all six do not return. Riggs is now the only Star Force Academy office on the battleship, Valiant.

From there it's one fight or flight after another with no friendly civilizations any where around. Cody has to manage just like his father did making live or death decisions at every turn. They flee one star system to another only to find hostiles waiting or friendlies that need help but don't appreciate the help he and his crew give them. Along with Marvin, Cody Riggs puts on another show of brilliant tactics and war fighting abilities that surprise even him.

I found this book easy to read and very enjoyable except for some of the parts dealing with Marvin. I think he gets too much freedom when he should have been melted down a long time ago.

The story line continues....

Larry Blackner says

Loved it

I think this is one of the best series I've read. It keeps me going with constant action and surprise. Just when you think everything is fine it all goes to hell with all new action.

Kiril Panchev says

The story takes us to explore the adventures of Cody Riggs - the son of Kyle Riggs who has just finished the Star Force fleet academy and is thrown into multiple battles between various forces away from home with no chances to return. We get to see some old characters (although Marvin is a bit odd - he was far more sophisticated in the previous books while here probably for a comedy effect he is a bit childish) as well as a lot of new enemies and allies.

Fun read in the StarForce universe.

Julian says

Another fantastic outing from BV Larson, now seemingly collaborating with another author David VanDyke. It is always jarring when a series goes so long that you have to bring in the heroes' children to keep it going. That said, the author has expanded his universe so far that there is still so much more to tell, and even at the end of book 10, I still want another 10 more!

The only issue I had with the heroes' son, Cody Riggs, is that even though he is only a lowly Ensign, he seems to magically know how to be an expert and seasoned military tactician. These skills just came too early to him to be realistic. Other than that small gripe, the author has great skill in creating exciting space battles, well rounded characters and new and interesting alien races.

This book and the entire series for that matter is just straight out fun and excitement that has not reduced in quality even now that it is in its 10th book. At the risk of sounding like a stuck record (it is the 10th time I have said it after all!), I cannot recommend this highly enough and cannot wait until the next installment!

Dan says

An OK read.

Vladimir Tsurkan says

Feel duped.

Couldn't understand at first why this book is so different from the other ones in the series. It is written for 13 year olds with lots of adolescent themes and really childish stuff. Than noticed that it was written not by Larson but by some other guy and apparently Larson just signed the bottom line so to speak :(. Disappointing.

Carl Bussema says

[

Great start, but will this wind up turning into a knock-off of Jack Campbell's "Lost Fleet" series (or Star Trek: Voyager, if you prefer)? Not sure if I really want to read 9 books about one ship trying to get home... that story line has been done, not just by the two series named, but in general. But on the other hand, Marvin is such a great character, that it's hard to say I won't read them.

(hide spoiler)]

Trey Bradley says

Some of the best science fiction that I've ever read. I can't wait for more books in the Star Force universe to be released!

I'm loving how similar Cody is to his father Kyle, but slightly different. Cody Riggs is a very good rendering of a man raised by the legendary Kyle Riggs and his mother being the beautiful, lovely and sharp Jasmine Riggs.

Even though this is the 10th book in the Star Force series, it is a new beginning so far. Some of the old characters are present, but not all. So, with the introduction and building of the new characters, the book is a little slow to start but it will leave you eagerly waiting for the next release. Though saying that - it is the longest book in the series, and I can't believe I'm already done with it.

If you ever read this Mr. Larson - Thank you so much for writing these books.

Jeff says

Random thoughts:

- 1) Hyping this as Larson's longest book ever is kind of like hyping Spinal Tap as the loudest band ever.
- 2) The plot is a basically a ~~riboff~~ of homage to Campbell's Lost Fleet series.
- 3) I see a lot of reviews saying the series is going YA, but I have to disagree. the new character is younger, but it's not an issue for anyone except one guy who is whipped into shape fairly easily. There's no journey of self discovery and no weird/arbitrary social stratification. Cody knows exactly who he is and that's a carbon copy of his father in every way but age.
- 4) If you liked the original series, don't be put off by the addition of a co-author. It reads exactly like the first 9 books.

Matthew says

If you've enjoyed Larson's previous nine Star Force novels, then you should find a certain level of satisfaction with this latest installment. *Outcast* is a decent addition to the Star Force universe and handled well for series newcomer David VanDyke. While there are a few spots that could use trimming and I have several small gripes, the story moves at a decent pace.

I've never read any of VanDyke's works, but he does a great job handling the story, to the point where I am unable to tell who is writing. There are multiples uses of AU (astronomical unit), and to my best recollection, Larson has rarely, if ever, used this term. Other than that, the lines are blurred on the writing style, which is a big plus as it makes the reading experience very cohesive. Larson's prose in previous Star Force makes reading them a breeze, and *Outcast* is no exception.

My biggest gripe is that Cody is written as a virtual clone of his dad, Kyle. Everything about him screams Kyle Riggs and there's really no distinction between the two. Reactions, decisions, impulses, bravado, it's all just like his old man. The book spans several months and at no point did Cody exhibit anything different during the numerous lulls, obstacles, and struggles, both physical and emotional. Given the continuous, never-ending struggle of survival for the crew on *Valiant* and the ample opportunities to show a different character, it's hard to believe that future books will see Cody break out of the mold of Kyle Riggs.

Outcast takes place 20 years after *The Dead Sun*, so is Sergeant Major Kwon really still a bored, active marine who happens to be right in the thick of a science experiment gone wrong? There's Marvin, the source of much frustration (for the characters) and entertainment/intrigue (for us readers), who also happens to hitch a ride when Cody leaves Earth. Then there's the standard Riggs luck that Kyle has exhibited throughout the years going strong with Cody. We've seen this many times before, but now they're effectively stranded in space.

Each of these items accumulated to a read that started fun, then continued into something we've ultimately seen before, even with the new threat being vastly different than anything before it. *Outcast* is by no means a bad book, and not even close to the worst in the series, but I couldn't help but feel that we've gotten more of the same, with a few exceptions along the way. Two new races are discovered, a threat more devastating than the Macros is introduced and the book ends with a bit more intrigue. There's still plenty of potential for fun, and I'm still as eager as ever to see where it goes. 3.5 out of 5 stars.

John says

very meh .. still a good unthinking read/listen. I would not have bothered without the audio book. You can miss large bits without a problem while you are working on chores.

The Son is just a self plagiarism exact copy of Dad. Since I liked the dad I like the continuation of the story so NOT an issue for me.

I don't get the books high rating? It is a bare bones average read pumped out fast .. still rather entertaining. I think it is more fandom speaking than veracity on the value of this book.

I'll continue to read BV's books with relish!

Aaron G Wright says

Great Book, Read it now!

Outstanding story line and a great way to take this universe to the next level. I'm a big fan of the Star Force series and Mr. Larson's work in general, but I was very leary of what this next chapter would look like. I bought the book and shelved it worrying he would somehow dishonor the previous accomplishment of books

1 through 9. I had nothing to worry about. I'm not going to summarize the story for as I'm sure some other review will. I will say that book 10 picks up some 23 or so years after 9 ends with Kyle Riggs boy and if you obviously enjoyed the first 9 novels you will love this new story line just as much if not more. Come on B.V. don't leave us hanging, let's get with the typing and bring on book 11!

Jack says

Hmmmm..... I'm rather conflicted with this book. I'm glad that the Star Force series isn't over, but at the same time you get the feeling that Larson is just flogging a series that should be put to rest. The Dead Sun was a good finish to the series, and could have ended just nicely. Basically, the problem with this book was it felt like you were reading about Riggs with a different name, girlfriend, and not as successful or as skilled career.

Larson actually writes another series called the Undying Mercenaries. It's similar but still different from Star Force and still a top-notch book.

There were goods parts, and Larson is still an excellent writer, but it didn't reach the heights it could have been, because the simple fact, it's too similar.

Diane says

Cody Riggs is an adult now and off on his own adventures with Marvin. He's a chip off the old block and Marvin is just as funny and mischievous as ever. We see a couple of old characters and lots of new aliens and "rings"... It ain't easy living in the shadow of Kyle Riggs, so it's kind of a coming of age story for Cody. Luckily he met Marvin as a child and knows how to deal with him.

I'm so happy to have this spin off. I always wondered what Marvin would be getting up to once Kyle went back to the farm. Give me more please!

Joy Wilson says

Nonstop action but I had to make myself finish

This was a little too shallow for me. told from first person, but I never got close enough to really care about him. too formulaic. Sorry, I can't recommend this one.
