



The Lost Command

Vaughn Heppner

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One hundred and fifty years ago, Earth colonists hoping to found a utopia emigrated deep into the Beyond. Now, the New Men are invading, a race of humans stronger, faster and smarter than the old.

Star Watch sends Admiral Fletcher to stop them. His command barely escapes annihilation by heading into the dreaded void. His battered ships are quickly running out of food, fuel and missiles, and they don't dare go back again to face the New Men.

Star Watch frantically searches for a way to rescue the vessels. An ancient alien starship is parked in the Solar System, with an irritable AI refusing to cooperate. The vessel has powerful weapons—if anyone could figure out how to make them work after ten thousand years.

Star Watch summons Captain Maddox, the only person to have successfully worked with the ancient computer. The captain must convince his old acquaintance the AI—who has become smarter and even more belligerent than before—to help him rescue Fletcher. But what does the ten-thousand-year-old AI have to gain by helping Star Watch's cockiest Intelligence officer? The answer just might help solve the threat of the New Men.

THE LOST COMMAND is the second book in the LOST STARSHIP SERIES.

The Lost Command Details

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From Reader Review The Lost Command for online ebook

Mike Reynolds says

An interesting story with a lot of twists and turns. The characters are a little too super hero but still a fun read.

Casey Ressler says

good read

Enjoy this author, this one was not a let down at all, the beginning was a little confusing but it all came nicely together.

Charles T. Haskell III says

Lost Command

This book in the series is an excellent follow-up to the initial book in the Lost Starship series. There are numerous twists and character streams that arise and have added new dimension to the storyline. I am starting book 3 as soon as I complete this review.

Mike Nemeth says

On his second novel of the Lost Starship series, author Vaughn Heppner brings back the conflicted Captain Maddox and his eclectic crew who despite their faults make saving the universe their obsession. "The Lost Command" appears more character driven than many of Heppner's books. His star is the muy macho half superman (or new man), but Maddox suspects his origins may make him even more of an outcast amongst his fellow humans. Maddox suspects he's half new man. And that's not such a great thing since these smarter, better, faster new men want to exterminate most of the human race like a shipful of Daleks. He and his crew face incredible difficulties. The most intense appears to be winning over the ancient ship they recovered in the first book. This alien vessel is the only hope of Star Watch, the military organization tasked with protecting human populated worlds. But the ship is run by an artificial intelligence who believes he's been tricked and wants nothing more than killing Maddox. But the captain is extremely good at trickery, so he does it again. Meanwhile, Heppner expands on the other characters, including the ship's AI. It's a bit of a departure for the author. But it works, and he's made a clearly engaging new series with a bunch of possible directions and backstories.

Tom says

This is the 2nd book in the series. I do like the book and the adventure is exciting. Sometimes the lead character is a little too much (over acted). Yet, the idea of a lost ship thousands of years old that was found and is able to aid earth and the commonwealth against a seemingly impossible enemy is great. Every now and then there are places where the dialog seems to jump like a paragraph was edited out. Usually, I just skip over it but it is still annoying.

The other characters in this book seem to carry less weight than in the first book. I would like to see the "professor" find solutions to some of the major problems with the ship. To me the author seems to be putting it off so the 'drama' is intensified. I guess I like resolutions instead of a continual set of complications.

I am looking forward to reading the third book in the series. My hope is that the old ship's technology can be duplicated and aid the remaining ships in the fleet.

John Mchale says

Slow starting and a lot of revisiting the previous book to remind you what happened so took a lot of will to keep going but the second half of the book got things moving again. Left it good for the next book.

BobP says

Exhausting ... constant tension and action

I am really getting into this series now. But the action, tension ramp up from the first book. I sped through this one hoping for some conclusions to be revealed, but the author has used a slow tease , so I guess I am hooked . :)

Mhinternational88 says

A step up from the fist book, and a great building block for the rest of the story.

The individual characters from book one all get more depth. Rather than the reader only really knowing the motives of the main character we get to know more of the driving force of his team.

Personally i think the most interesting aspect of the book are the ancient aliens and the AI and the teases of them will be driving me to finish the series and possibly rage if I learn nothing.

phillip says

Capt Maddox thought retrieving the list starship would solve earth problems

A great victory retrieving the lost alien starship. Surely this would give the earth fleets a great advantage, or would it?

Jeremy Michael Gallen says

The second installment of author Vaughn Heppner's Lost Starship series opens with a memorandum indicating that Captain Maddox returned from the Beyond with an alien starship (the Victory) and that the New Men attacked the Commonwealth, the events believed related. The first four main chapters occur near Caria 323 in the "C" Quadrant, likely of the Milky Way Galaxy, with an attack by the New Men being imminent, although many in the Commonwealth believe they have "victory disease," blinded by their accomplishments. The enigmatic Oran Rva leads the New Men, claiming to be the conqueror of the Commonwealth, with the galactic organization talking of using the Victory against them.

The chapter numbering restarts at one when the events shift back to Earth, where its inhabitants are ignorant and apathetic about the New Men, Captain Maddox, one of the primary protagonists, told to commence Operation Odysseus. Meanwhile, his love interest Meta finds herself attacked and kidnapped by strangers, with Maddox ultimately coming by her apartment complex and finding that the security footage showing her capture had been subject to tampering. Believing Meta to still be on Earth, Maddox heads to Monte Carlo to visit Octavian Nerva, who denies having a role in kidnapping her. Maddox quickly finds himself in a hostage situation, although he ultimately connects with Brigadier O'Hara, nicknamed the Iron Lady.

Maddox' superiors believe like he does that the Victory is the key to triumph over the New Men, and the Captain is tasked to find Professor Ludendorff to exploit the alien starship, whose traps have claimed the lives of researchers. An initial antagonist other than the New Men is the alien vessel's artificial intelligence that identifies itself as Driving Force Galyan, which indicates the ship to be the remnant of the extinct alien civilization the Adoks, who were a peaceful race, and promises eventual conveyance to the homeworld of the Swarm. A series of battles between the New Men and the Commonwealth round out the novel, with Maddox also learning about his lineage.

Overall, the first Lost Starship sequel effectively and satisfactorily continues its predecessor's plotline, with the characters definitely being believable and the story itself full of good science-fiction action and occasional twists. Granted, the author could have come up with a better-sounding name for the antagonists other than "the New Men," with the writer likely a fan of the various Star Trek television series and movies in the creation of the aforementioned narrative foes. The story also touches briefly upon the eugenics pseudoscience, with this reviewer somewhat relating to the themes of genetic superiority and inferiority, and would recommend the book to fans of the sci-fi genre.

Alex Shrugged says

I read this book almost exactly a year ago. I remembered most of it, but since I am trying to read the latest books in the series, I thought I would go back and review some of the earlier books.

The Story: Now that the alien super ship has been recovered, the government has been trying to duplicate the alien technology in order to use these new weapons to defeat the New Men, a race of augmented super beings with a well defined sense of self. But with the recent near defeat of Star Watch forces, Captain Maddock is brought in to find a missing super scientist to activate the alien weapons and save us all.

Any problems with the story? With background from Book 1 it is easier (although not easy) to figure out what is going on. The general feud between Maddock and one of the wealthiest men in the world is ongoing. It still makes very little sense to me. The whole business seems too cute by half.

The chances for a successful search for the super scientist is virtually zero, but oh look! There he is!

Any modesty issues? Well... sex is implied, but weakly such as "he urged her along to his cabin" or words to that effect. The word "d-mn" is used quite a bit, but nothing worse than that.

The next book in the series is The Lost Destroyer. As I recall, that will introduce a larger conspiracy that will continue throughout the series.

Patrick Barnes says

Nicely done

The continuing adventures of Captain Maddox are just as tense as the first book. The plot was just as engaging as I'd hoped. A little more diversity in the cast would make this the perfect sequel but that being said, I really liked this book.

Jack says

The Lost Command, the second in The Lost Starship series, is written heads and shoulders above the first book. And still, at the end of this one as with the first one, I want more.

It's hard to talk about the book without spoilers. Suffice to say the New Men become more than just a presence on the screen. That first meeting, I felt energy emanating forcefully from the screen. And we learn more of the New Men's plan for humanity. They may be new men, but it's an old plan. That's spoiler enough.

I thoroughly enjoyed this. All the main characters grow in the book. I felt fully involved in all the scenes, and in several cases, I'm glad I wasn't there. I can imagine this book translated to the big screen quite easily. While Battlestar Galactica (the reboot) wasn't a movie, this book has that same feel and scope.

I recommend this highly.

Jeffrey Hart says

Second in a series of space opera books, our hero is attempting to get back to the home planet after defeating the "new men" by recovering an ancient spaceship and winning the love of a very strong female. But the New Men are still on the loose and just as dangerous.

Joe says

A good sequel

This book established a few bits of new information, but more importantly it further fleshed out existing story lines and characters. It didn't suddenly charge off in random directions as some sequels do in hopes of being a "stand-alone" story in case the reader didn't bother to read the first book.
No earth shattering surprises, but decent story telling.
