



Bold

Mike Shepherd

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Despite her role as a fleet Admiral and protector of a planetary system, Kris is still beholden to her great grandfather King Raymond's commands. She has been personally selected for a mission that, should she succeed, will save millions of lives.

The Peterwald Empire is in the midst of civil war. On one side is the tyrannical Empress, on the other is the last person Kris ever wants to see again—Grand Duchess Vicky Peterwald. Due to their shared history, the Emperor believes Kris can mediate between the factions and bring about peace.

But before Kris even begins her mission, she survives two assassination attempts on her family home world. Someone doesn't want her interfering in the Empire's affairs. Kris immediately suspects Vicky or the Empress, only to learn that it could also be a traitor among her own people...

Bold Details

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Author : Mike Shepherd

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From Reader Review Bold for online ebook

Tim says

Fastest read of the year.

At times this read like an end-of-series winding down, and I do hope there's more (although somehow I can't imagine Kris Longknife: Sainsbury's lasting much longer than the first assassination attempt. So . . . about a day then.)

Sigh, a year to wait. Come on Mike, write faster!!

Tokies says

This is probably my favorite cover. I think one of the biggest drawbacks to this author is romance. It's not fun to read this authors romance you almost want to cringe at the cornball level. great ship battles, great fighting great action scenes. The problem is the way he writes woman is randomly catty. Things like breast size and stuff like that. I'm not sure what other women think about things. Personally, I'm not itty bitty in the titty. I do better than my fair share. At the same time, i always think of Kris as being more focus than that. Yah flashes of these things but not as much headspace. I think her biggest challenge throughout the series is realizing that her "heroes" were not people she ever wanted to be or should be. That there was a better way. That she could be better. How to be vulnerable and find her place with jack. I think I love the place Kris is emotionally right now. The problem is the dutchess. that romance annoyed me. It's not as bad as the old Tommy romance plot line but it's close. I think the author needs to take some time and think about how women deal with emotions. when it comes to life. I think his writing of women would get stronger. There's a new long knife and I just hope he does better with her then he did with kris or the dutchess. overall wonderful book it's in it's own way the last two books have been the BEST in the series. so much so im REREADING the whole series for the third time.

Dan says

Another in this really good series.

Glen says

Things are definitely looking up. Tedious battle descriptions have been replaced by tales of intrigue and human interactions. The battles are still there, but short and to the point. Trust this author to be able to make family life interesting in a science fiction novel about galactic warfare. As a story line, for a while it looked like interesting ideas for Kris were running out in this series. Thanks for breathing new life into her!

Nancy says

This latest installment in the Kris Longknife series finds Her Royal Highness Admiral Kris Longknife called upon to mediate a dispute between the rulers of Greenfeld. Kris heads their way with a squadron of frigates. These ships may look puny compared to Greenfeld's battle fleet, but they pack a bigger punch. Kris finds it more difficult to be diplomatic than to fight the enemy. Nonetheless, she uses her skills in the boardroom as well as on the battlefield to ferret out the truth and restore the Greenfeld empire. Kris has come a long way since book one but she's still an engaging character, and readers will want more stories in her universe.

Hilary says

Kris now manages to juggle the hats of princess, admiral, wife and mother with a certain amount of ease, but it doesn't mean she *likes* being ordered around or set up as a target and somehow she must negotiate a peaceful agreement between Imperial family members without killing any of them. It could be tricky...

It's filled with very personable central characters with realistic attitudes and problems, from Kris and Jack learning how to be a partnership in marriage as well as work to Vicky's family problems. (The full story of Vicky's adventures, rather than the necessarily abbreviated version here, is in "Vicky Peterwald: Survivor.") Unlike some settings where children shift on and off-stage as if they were chairs, Kris is obviously changed by having a baby, and the size of the babycare team was most entertaining for me. In addition, she not only learns from previous experiences but is somewhat haunted by them, rather than having the amazing ability to just discard all troubling occurrences like many characters do.

SF purists may not like the incredible flexibility of Nelly and the SmartMetal, which may seem a little too space opera, but I loved them! There's nothing like a smart alec computer to lighten the mood.

Disclaimer: I received a free copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Cfabrication says

I like the characters in this series. But, this book felt as if it was dictated fast and neither edited nor proofread.

Kris is described as having a "fey" or "fay" smile 4 times. Since my dictionary defines fey as "giving an impression of vague unworldliness", I take issue with its being used once, let alone 4 times.

People alternately "make do" and "make due". Again, it's overused.

The breastfeeding focus makes her breasts sound a bit like juice packs. They don't really get "drained" or "emptied", in my experience. Plus, enough with the coy, naughty banter about married sex. Or unmarried for that matter. It's not all that interesting. And Neyy is sassy. We get it.

There's something about the descriptions of banquet food that made me expect that a nice lime jello and cream cheese salad with walnuts was going to be next.

Jack's parents' house description was cringe inducing. A blanket with the image of the Virgin de Quadelupe? Really? In the far future?

The plot was okay. More opportunities to blow stuff up and stack up bodies.

David Brawley says

Like all of Mike Shepherd's books, I devoured this one. He's got a writing style that just sucks you in. And while I usually enjoy his cliffhanger endings where Kris pulls off something amazing, only to have something crazy happen right at the end, this one has Kris do something... pretty spectacularly unimpressive, and it fell flat for me.

I was also disappointed in the character of the Empress. Or really, the lack of character. It wasn't even that she was flat, it's that she barely rose to the level of caricature. I'd hope that she would be more interesting.

Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says

I wondered if Mike Shepherd was going to get his two female main characters together. For those of you who are following the Kris Longknife series you know that Vicky Petersburg has her own spin-off series. The two have been enemies but on their last meeting they called a truce. Vicky has undergone a big change and is working for the good of others instead of herself. Now Kris has been called to mediate between Vicky and her father. There is someone who does not want that to happen and both women have to watch their backs and try to escape being killed. This is a great wrap up of this part of the series. At the end it looks like this will be the last book but in an afterword Mike Shepherd let us know that Kris will be back but in a brand new story arc. After all Kris has a husband and baby now and that is always a game changer. This can stand-alone but starting at the beginning of the series keeps you up on all the back story.

GaiusPrimus says

It's an entertaining book. The last hundred or so pages kept me awake for a while as I finished reading the book, but at about halfway through it I kept thinking that there wouldn't be enough pages to finish the story.

Needless to say, the "conflict" is resolved very very quickly and the normal space battle scenes are just paragraphs.

Laz the Sailor says

After all these years, you'd think everyone in the universe would know that you don't piss off Kris Longknife. But a deranged Empress does the one thing that will cause Kris to let loose her fury, unrestrained.

Kris has returned to her own galaxy to rest and care for her newborn daughter. She promptly gets tapped to

assist her longtime nemesis and recent friend Vicky P to smooth over some political troubles over in the Greenfield Empire. How hard could that be? Sure, bring the baby.

It was nice to get away from the big planet-busting meanies that have been the focus of the past 3-4 books, and back to good old-fashioned family nastiness. Lots of familiar characters are gathered, including the gang from the Vicky series, and as much SmartMetal as anyone could ask for.

Everything ends happily, and several story arcs are resolved here. The author acknowledges that it was time for a break, but more stories are on the way.

Hali Sowle says

Another great book in the Kris Longknife series. This time instead of murderous aliens Kris has to face something even more terrifying - trying to broker a peace treaty between Vicky Peterwald and her father and his wife. It seems that in the time that Kris has been on the far side of the galaxy, fighting aliens, discovering new species and having a baby Vicky has gotten tired of the Empress trying to murder her and left for another part of the Greenfeld empire, and in the process she has also grown up and learned to lead. Kris has to find new depths of ingenuity not only to find peace but stay alive.

Roger says

Reasons I love the Kris Longknife books: Kris is a really strong woman who does not require a lot of rescuing. She is smart, tough, and a good person without being some perfect angel. Even though these novels are a bit formulaic this is a formula I like, as I enjoy a good space opera. I enjoy watching Kris adapt to change and succeed. Under no circumstances should you read these novels out of order-it is one of the perils of series fiction but for maximum enjoyment you need to start these at the beginning, and proceed from there. The only reason Bold did not get five stars is the villain of the piece: the Big Bad in this book is a scenery chewing lunatic. They are just a little bit over the top. So this book rates a very solid four stars.

Hilary says

Kris now manages to juggle the hats of princess, admiral, wife and mother with a certain amount of ease, but it doesn't mean she *likes* being ordered around or set up as a target and somehow she must negotiate a peaceful agreement between Imperial family members without killing any of them. It could be tricky...

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Jean says

I was beginning to think that Shepherd had given up on the series; but, alas a new book has finally come out.

Kris and Jack are now married and they have a new baby girl named Ruth. They have returned home and King Ray has a new assignment for Kris. As we know from prior books, the Peterwald Empire is in a civil war. Emperor Peterwald has asked for mediation between Vicky and himself. He has asked for Kris to be the mediator. Of course, the evil stepmother is still attempting to kill Vicky and take over the Empire. Someone attempts to assassinate Kris and family even before she leaves to the mediation site. Is it the Empress or someone from her own country?

The story is well written and very fast paced. There is lots of military action including space battles and land engagements. The suspense builds throughout the story and, of course, Shepherd tosses in some humor. I learn a bit about mediation and negotiation techniques from Kris's mediation team. My favorite character is still "Nellie". I sure wish I had a Nellie of my own. Shepherd has nicely tied up some of the subplots. The book ending makes me think that this is the end of the series, but I sure hope he continues with the series. I cannot wait to see what happens next to the various characters.

Dina Pearlman does an excellent job narrating the series. I am glad the series has had the same narrator throughout. Pearlman is an actress and audiobook narrator.
