



# Mission One

*Samuel Best*

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## **Mission One** Samuel Best

**Titan.** Sixth moon of Saturn. A gleaming jewel of natural resources, ripe for harvesting by the first private space company to stake a claim.

Diamond Aerospace launches a ship with an experimental engine that will get a crew to Titan in five months. Their mission is to lay the groundwork for a permanent orbital research station, one that will be the future base of operations for activity on that distant moon.

Shortly after launch, a devastating malfunction forces the crew to make a choice: continue to Titan, or go back home. As the truth about their mission unravels, one thing is clear: someone on Earth knew about the system flaw and covered it up.

Between the critical situation in space and the corporate politics on Earth, Humanity's first voyage beyond Mars quickly turns into a relentless struggle for survival.

Yet surviving the journey isn't the crew's only concern. Even if they make it to Titan, they will face another problem:

*Something* is already there.

## **Mission One Details**

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Author : Samuel Best

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# **From Reader Review Mission One for online ebook**

## **Dohnia Cwik says**

I liked the book. It was interesting and the plot moved well. With so many books, the author leaves so many clues that you always know what is going to happen. With this book, there were some hints but there were lots of surprises. The reason I did not give this a 5\* is because it had a cheap "magic" ending. It is as if the author either wrote himself into a corner or ran out of time on his publisher's deadline because in the last two pages, magic happens and everyone is saved. It felt like he cheated.

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## **Roger Ball says**

### **Good beginning and characters**

I enjoyed this read and believe it's a good beginning to an obvious series. I would have given it a better rating but felt it seemed to drag occasionally. Pacing felt off. Found myself skipping ahead as I read. Hard to put my finger on why I didn't like this better. Checks off most of the elements I like in this variation of near space exploration and possible first contact. Some political intrigue, hard science, etc..

But bottom line is I'll be happy when the next book in this series comes out!

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## **Ed Tinkertoy says**

I really liked this book. It was an easy read with a good story and plot. The book was kinda slow at the beginning with a lot of details of what each character was doing and thinking. But it all came together later. The book has a surprise ending and well as some interesting turns near the end. The end of the book left some questions about how things went but in the epilogue the writer explains that he intended only one book but is now working on another to more or less end the story.

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## **Amazonaute says**

Good proper stuff.

This is the "private enterprise going to titan for the first time" one.

Wonderful plot beats.

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## **Virginia says**

### **Enjoyable Read**

Being a fast, easy read it played like a movie in my head. The writing was very good. I would definitely read other things by this author. I stopped short of a 5 star rating simply because the alien parts of the story were difficult to fully imagine. To be fair, I don't know if more detailed descriptions would have helped. After all, it IS alien-to everyone but the author's imagination.

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### **Russell Libonati says**

I would prefer to give the book 3.5 stars. I opted to go down instead of up because the story just wasn't that compelling. It was definitely hard science. There were mistakes, but they were acceptable, but the plot takes you in a way to another place and I wanted to spend more time there to figure it out. The author says at the end that it was essentially on purpose to get you to think.

There was a section in the middle that I felt was a bit unrealistically done. I don't want to spoil it so that's all I'll say.

I think there could have been a bit more character development as well.

Overall, it was a good read and despite what appears to be a bad review, I WOULD recommend the book. I think the author is most of the way there. It just needs that little bit more.

I read this on my kindle and I received it for free from the Kindle lending library. I would say it's safe for teens to read. There was no obvious political or religious agenda to the book and the harsh language was minimal (maybe non-existent, I don't recall any).

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### **Marco C says**

#### **Four stars. Could have been five.**

Not a bad novel. Few mistakes (a couple of repeated words) and a pretty good plot, if shaky at times.

I wish I could go into the details without spoilers, alas, I'll just mention that videoconference from Ceres are not immediate. There is delay with the moon, the delay with Ceres would require sleep shifts.

Also, there are no pressure waves in space. That's why nuclear weapons (there aren't any in this novel) don't work as effectively in space.

No pressure waves means no stuff breaks unless the bomb is right in it. Enough said.

I was going to give the book 3 stars, but then I read the author note at the end and it sounds so eager (I would be too if I finished a novel, it's a lot of work) that I just could not bring myself to leave just 3 stars. An extra star for effort.

If I can make a suggestion to the author, next time a bit more research would help. I'd rather have fewer plot points and more credible physics.

Also, I would not have created the tension in Ground Control the same way. It seemed a bit far fetched. What was the boss going to do a week later? Not Fire his ass? Because I would have and then I would have called the FBI.

Anyway, good effort. It's a good story. Enjoyable, a bit far fetched, but a nice space romp.

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## **Conny says**

I have been a Fan of Sam Best since reading his first book and I have never been disappointed in any of them including this one. So when the Author asked me if I wanted to read his latest creation I jumped at it immediately. I liked the characters and the storyline, though it had a little bit of a slow beginning, the book eventually build up the tension and mystery bit by bit and I could not have predicted the outcome. It kept me at the edge of my seat and I eagerly await the next installment. Very entertaining read.

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## **Ray Henderson says**

### **It's okay, but full of bad science**

Writing hard science fiction well requires a strong grasp of the science involved. This author doesn't demonstrate that requisite knowledge. Annoying mistakes in general concepts plague the book. Not much of interest really happens until the end and it's pretty vague stuff. Tough to finish. Very cliché characters. No grasp of spaceflight, nor orbital mechanics. The author should probably try researching his subject matter a little deeper than the first paragraph of Wikipedia.

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## **Joan says**

This was FUN! Not particularly great prose, and the science was more than a bit ropery as were some of the facts (really - astronauts changing their underwear every four days, and getting a completely new set of clothes every time they changed? Nah. ) But I like the characters and the action and it was a rollicking good read - which was all I needed at the time.

Three and a half stars rounded up to four because I was desperate to know how it ended (which is always a good thing) ;)

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## **Suzanne says**

An exciting science fiction thriller, *Mission One* opens when a private spaceship embarks to Titan, the sixth moon of Saturn, on a preliminary mission to establish a research station on the distant moon.

From the beginning there are clues that things aren't as they seem. From clandestine spies and murder on the ground, to mechanical issues on board the spaceship, the entire crew appear to be in danger. As if that weren't enough, upon arrival at Titan, they discover their ship isn't the only craft there.

I enjoyed this novel very much. It was a fun, fast, summer read.

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## **Patrick Barnes says**

## **Writing Ok, Story, not so much**

A billionaire cuts corners on outfitting his expedition in order to beat his rival to an alien artifact but is not culpable for the deaths that follow. He's just a good guy whose henchmen fooled him into doing it.

The young multibillionaire sleeps with the 43 year old ex-wife of an employee and is surprised at some employee bitterness. You can only imagine that he met her at a company gathering with her husband and just happened to be available to help her through her divorce?

The billionaire is a good guy, right! By the end he's found new data related to the artifact and is off to the races with his new stash of secret data. Wonder which rival and/or henchman will cause more deaths not for profits but for the thrill of being first.

Crew members investigate the artifact that killed the crew of the ship next door and I was rooting for the artifact. Add the romantic happy ending and I don't feel guilty about spoilers. Darkness is real and I think most people will accept that truth but don't then deliver a Tom Hanks RomCom (I love Tom Hanks) combined with the typical "the egotistical, selfish, power-craving billionaire is misunderstood".

I laughed through the last third of the book.

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## **Santos says**

Fantastic story from start to end. This story as elements of the space odyssey series considering there is a strange alien artifact. To me what made and what makes this story believable is the fact it can almost be considered Hard science fiction considering its set in then near distinct future where we still travel in space with rockets and capsules. The only different thing about this is the new form of engine that propels us through space. Instead of 4 years to get to Saturn, it now only takes about 5 to 6 months.

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## **Cass says**

3,5/5

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## **Larry says**

For the most part, I really enjoyed this book. A first mission to Titan, a brand new antimatter drive (with certain rumors floating about), and a mission-within-a-mission that is kept from the crew until they are well on their way. The book has the earmarks of the grand, old science fiction that was rooted in believable scientific advancement. It is a well-told story, and well worth your time.

The one, small feature that bothered me was its ending; however, the author addressed my quibble in his afterword. There is a sequel coming, and I plan to be aboard.

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