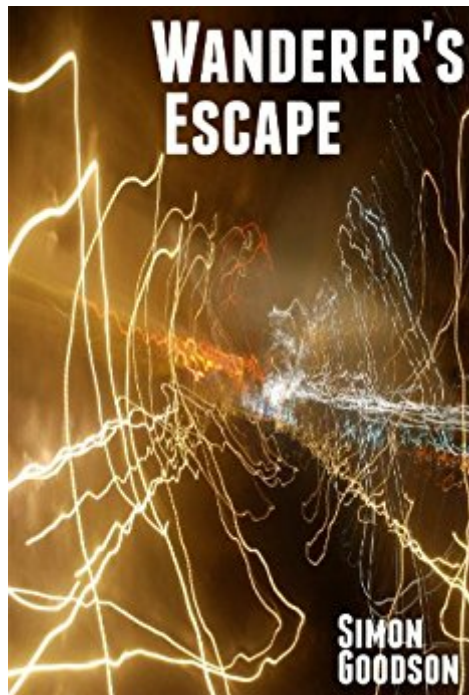




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Wanderer's Escape (Wanderer's Odyssey Book 1)



Synopsis

An ancient starship. A young slave. Together they'll save the universe | or destroy it. Jess has been a prisoner all his short life. On the day he's ordered to clear the traps on a mothballed starship he realises he's going to die a prisoner. The ship, and others like it, have already claimed hundreds of lives. When the ship comes to life at his touch Jess snatches the chance to live and begins a frantic flight to freedom. But the Wanderer is no ordinary ship. After centuries lying dormant, Jess's touch brings it back to consciousness. The Wanderer bonds with Jess, giving him incredible power | but at a higher cost than he could possibly imagine. Jess finds himself loose in a brutal universe with the Empire, pirates, slavers and worse hunting him so they can control the Wanderer. Yet beyond those challenges waits a far greater danger that will threaten the entire universe if it isn't challenged. Will Jess and the Wanderer be enough to defeat the threat? This novel is a brilliant example of the perfect sci-fi/space opera. Hard edged, but soft hearted, the bond between the ancient ship, Wanderer, and Jess is beautiful. • Cheryl Mackey, Author. Will Jess and the Wanderer manage to stay free? And if they do, just where will their journey take them? Find out for yourself - buy Wanderer's Escape today and follow Jess and the Wanderer on their incredible journey! Praise for Wanderer's Escape, the first in the five-book Wanderer's Odyssey series | Reading this book, and the two sequels took me back to my teen years, reading Lucky Starr, Isaac Asimov and so many other great adventures. • Richard Bequette, Review. Just finished book two and I'm going to start book three tonight. This is turning out to be a great series. • Far left Texas, Review. ...a rollicking adventure of freedom, friendship, betrayal, space battles, rescues, love, and growth. • graycat98, Review.

Book Information

File Size: 1028 KB

Print Length: 252 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Dark Soul Publishing Ltd; 2 edition (January 8, 2013)

Publication Date: January 8, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AZ7YSFQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #3,108 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #49 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Exploration #55 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Space Exploration #58 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Galactic Empire

Customer Reviews

Ok, the things I need in a book are simple. A good universe: Check. Mostly well thought out setting, politics and physics. He didn't wing it. Non-simple characters: Check. Like 'em or hate 'em, I don't see many paper cutouts here. Some of them and the character interaction could have been more developed, but hey, new author. Character growth: Yeah, sort of. Actually not a lot of room for it, but he tried. Character continuity: Check. No out of character decisions or activity just to drive the plot. Entertaining plot: Check. Not original, but he moved it well, with some good variations. This isn't a deep thoughtful book, folks. It's entertainment and worth the read.

A very good, if not run-of-the-mill science fiction story. This is the kind of sci-fi book that just about anyone who has ever read a sci-fi book could imagine writing. I doubt that there's not a sci-fi out there who hasn't wished they could stumble upon a fantastically advanced alien spaceship and immediately find themselves linked as the pilot. That would be so cool. I've thought about that when I was much younger. In this story, Jess, a very young man who is also a slave, has been a slave all his life, is forced to open a strange spaceship his masters are trying to capture. He doesn't know anything about spaceships, just that he must obey his master or the obedience collar around his neck will punish him severely. So, he tries to do as told even though the first guy trying this was fried on the spot. His masters don't care if he's fried either, they have plenty of slaves. Miraculously, the door to the spaceship opens at his touch. Then he and two other slaves are ordered to proceed to the flight control deck knowing that the three of them will set off any other booby traps that might exist. Well, there are no other booby traps. In fact, once on the flight control deck, Jess sits in the pilot's chair and his control collar falls off. So does the collars of his two companions, Sal and Matt. Although they are ordered to come back out of the ship, they realize that they are now free and the doors to the spaceship have all shut. They have no

way out, nor can their masters come get them and they cannot be punished through their collars which are now on the floor. Now, their adventure starts. This starship has taken a liking to Jess and begins bonding with him as its new pilot. At first, Jess doesn't realize this until he becomes aware of something different in his head. It's as though he can feel the ship. As he sits in the pilot's chair, a web of material slowly captures his head and the tendrils begin going into his brain. Now, none of this is felt and Jess doesn't even know it's happening until Matt asks him something and he finds he can turn his head very far. Then Matt tells him he's got some spider-web connected from the chair to his head. Jess tries to get free, but the ship calmly tells him to calm down and that he won't be held here for very long. Jess is going to be the Wanderer's pilot and that means more freedom than he has ever experienced. As I said, this is a good story. It's kind of predictable in that space seems to be filled with very vile people (and no aliens) who seem to want to prey on each other. Instead of having a galactic community of free enterprise with trading done on a usual business-like basis, this galaxy runs on slave manpower, pirates doing as they please and people cheating each other whenever possible. Makes you wonder what happened to the Federation of Star Trek fame! Anyway, since Jess and his friends are now free, they now have to figure out what to do. The author then turns the story into a likely scenario when a naive young man almost gets taken to the cleaners on several occasions. How he and his ship get out of these jams is the interesting part of the story. Good reading and very interesting science fiction.

Probably really good for mid to older teens, but at times the story line had what felt to me to be a rather childlike simplicity to it...and at other times there were massive amounts of boring and unnecessary details that dragged the story line along. At times I felt I was reading a story outline more than a story, although there also portions that had believable dialogue and character interaction...but they were scattered and rare. The basic story was not horrific, but the author failed to create strong enough characters or to build a foundation to support the intended plot. For me when a story leaves a reader with more questions than answers, the writer has failed a major goal. You not only have to provide entertainment--which to some degree this writer managed to do--but you must have strong characters, a plot that moves along with some degree of believable ties to reality, and even with sci-fi or fantasy, there has to be identifiable variations of good vs evil, overcoming some type of obstacle, or character growth in order to have a sense of accomplishment ... And while the writer did manage to provide some of that, he skimmed over what--for me at least--was extremely relevant. In the very beginning he almost completely avoided delving into WHY this

ship chose a young boy as its Captain...why it interfaced with a slave (someone born a slave and with no training or education) was able to mentally link with a spaceship thousands of years old. In fact, for me, the best part was discovering that this boy could so easily interact with the ship, and it would have been much more interesting had it been a bit more difficult for him to have obtained the ship than by simply getting in and almost-pooof- he's in charge and jumping around in space , freeing slaves and building additions by practically thinking them into existence.Idea wise, I think he hit upon something that could have been awesome... But instead of building up to it (learning slowly how to control the ship, and having the guards realize that no one else could do what he did, thus making Jess both an invaluable asset and dangerous at the same time) the story sort of just skimmed over that and rushed into battles and wild ideas to run and save strangers who had been made into slaves. Not saying that rescuing children and enslaved people isn't an altruistic endeavor, but it felt rushed into. It seems that the meat of the story was overlooked in the effort to have fight scenes and make the main character into a hero without taking the time to truly groom him for that role.Shades of Star Wars and alien characters flashed into my mind at times, because the language and actions seemed to reflect that type of influence in the writing and in the characters. Enjoyable at times, but disappointing in that I didn't sense strong character growth, or a genuine plot to follow.

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