



Heirs of Empire

Evan Currie

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The Scourwind family legacy brought the empire to the height of its power and prosperity and defended it against all enemies. Now one man's machinations aim to shift the balance of power—with violent and devastating consequences.

When the trusted General Corian launches a coup against Emperor Scourwind, he hurls the planetary kingdom into chaos. To secure his claim as ruler, Corian will need the strength of the Scourwind name behind him, and he will stop at nothing to bring under his grasp the young Scourwind heirs, twins Lydia and Brennan. Barely into adulthood, the two are thrust into the crossfire. Battling new obstacles at every turn, they eventually find refuge with Mira Delsol, pirate and former member of the elite empire forces.

As the stakes rise, loyalists, mercenaries, and political opportunists rally around the heirs in a desperate bid to unseat the usurper. But if their risky gambit fails, will the empire crumble into oblivion?

Heirs of Empire Details

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Author : Evan Currie

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From Reader Review Heirs of Empire for online ebook

April Burton says

Great story

What a great story line. Thank you for keeping me so engaged with every page. Is there anything else that follows? Loved it.

Per Gunnar says

This is a sci-fi adventure that, primarily due to the setting, is somewhat different from the usual stories out there. At least from the ones I usually read. I found it very good. It is filled with action, has an interesting setting, good characters and is well written.

The setting is somewhat different. It is clear fairly early that the world where the story plays itself out is a remnant of something much older, much bigger and much more advanced and powerful. The present day inhabitants have lost much of their history and what remains is shrouded in legends and mysteries. They live in a world where the sun never sets and seeing the stars at night is an unknown concept.

The inhabitants of the known part of their world is ruled by an emperor and his rule is about to suffer a serious setback to say the least. The book pretty much jumps straight into the action and introduces the two main characters. One of them being the lady hero of the story. I have to say that I immediately took a liking to this character. A liking which continued throughout the book. Not that there are a lack of likable, and dislikeable, characters around though.

The technology is a mixture of advanced tech and less advanced ditto. Like trains running on “quantum-locked rails” mixed up with “sail boats” roaming the skies and mentally bonded near magical weapons that are remnants from the past and cannot be reproduced by the technology possessed by the current inhabitants of this strange world.

Throughout the book we get hints as to what this world really is and for the habitual science fiction reader it is soon fairly clear what we are talking about even though the origins and why the current inhabitants seem to have lost the knowledge about their origins are still a mystery.

I found the book very entertaining to read. It has built a great universe for further adventures and I definitely hope that the author will make this into a book series with further books. There are some great possibilities here.

Koeur says

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2015/10/1...>

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Rating: 1.9/5

Publisher Description: The Scourwind family legacy brought the empire to the height of its power and prosperity and defended it against all enemies. Now one man's machinations aim to shift the balance of power—with violent and devastating consequences.

Review: Nice cover art.

Oh boy, we have a super speshul alert! Prince and Princess twinsy Scourdouchewing, Lydia and Brennan. Brennan, that lovable scamp, can fly anything in the air better than the bestest pilot, like in ever. He's young but can break grown men's necks if he wants to. See, there's a trick. Its harder NOT to break their necks than to just kill them. Princess Lydia, or "Lyd" is hotter than a popcorn fart, is "scarily" brilliant and can snap kick your ass to hell in a second. Hate them yet? Oh, you will.

So, one dude named Corian somehow takes a ragtag group of defectors and steals the most secret and devastating attack ship in the world.... Yeahhhh, right. He has lost an eye and a leg so I guess he is now a pirate. Argh?? So then pages and pages of backstory ensue with a lot of command decisions made by super woman, er.....Mira Delsol, one of the Imperial Cadre "...a fighting force unmatched in the empire, lavished with the highest levels of training....and culled from bloodlines that...". Fug .

What drove this novel into the dirt was not only the smug twins jocularity in the face of danger and the lengthy backstory throughout but the constant phrasing to expedite scene development. For example. Said: darkly, softly (x 32), tightly, firmly, sarcastically, simply, calmly, amiably, pleasantly, slowly, idly, (to name a few) was so overused that it left scenes flat and under-developed.

If you could see me I am "Grimacing slightly" while "Growling (x24)".

Josephine (biblioseph) says

First Chapter Thoughts

I was only able to preview 8 or 10 pages of this 350 page book and can see myself reading this when I want something a little more 'easy' or 'light' but fun. Really what got me was the front cover, and description. Also there are no red-flags of racism or sexism yet. The main character for those pages is a bad-ass knight for the empire named Mira Delsol. I read some reviews while deciding whether to buy this ebook, and saw that the story may seem familiar to long-time readers in the genre, that the prose is as purple and a bit stiff at times, that this reads like an old knight's tale of legendary Europe set in space. And none of that was so terrible in the bit I read.

Lindsay says

Interesting world-building let down by purple prose and mediocre story-telling.

On his way to a secure prison General Corian escapes due to the treachery of the troops escorting him there as they betray their leader Mira Delsol. He then leads a successful rebellion against Emperor, again aided by treacherous insiders. The Emperor's younger children, teenage twins escape and eventually meet up with Mira. Loyalist forces meet up with them and then attempt to retake the Empire.

The world building is the star here with the Empire existing as one square cell of what sounds an awful lot like an enormous artificial object, either a Niven Ring or a Dyson Sphere, although the people don't seem to realize this. There also seems to be aliens that have somehow interbred with the humans here and people with more alien blood have the ability to use certain alien technologies. This stuff is the redeeming parts of the book.

Unfortunately, the book itself is a completely pedestrian military SF with some incredibly purple prose. Seriously, this author has never met an adjective he doesn't like. Despite that, descriptions are few and far between, and some of the more fantastic technology, particularly of the sailcraft, need to be imagined rather than pictured. There's also lots of background that gets alluded to but never appropriately explored including the twin's issues with the Cadre (which stem from an incident never explained) and the Emperor's obvious preparation for a Cadre rebellion.

As to the plot? No twists. No turns. Everything I put in the paragraph above happens. No surprises. Yawn.

Glynn Stewart says

Heirs of Empire was... different. This is mostly a positive thing. In this book, Currie tells a relatively standard fantasy story, with a lot of fantasy tropes, in a world that more and more clearly becomes a science fiction world as the story continues.

It's well put together and engaging, with characters you enjoy following and a villain you want to see get his just desserts.

By the end, you even begin to see some signs of the villain's motivations (lack of real reasons for his actions and for people to actually follow him is one of my two gripes about this book) and a lot of possibilities for future work.

My second, and more serious gripe, is in the description of the world itself. Having read the entire book, I am still uncertain what, for example, the sky looks like. I was two thirds of the way through the book before any sort of explanation of how the world, which was clearly different, even looked to the eye.

Its a minor issue, but one that detracted noticeably from the story, as I kept expecting some explanation of the things the characters discussed. Unlike them, I'm not in the world, so I have no idea what these terms and concepts they use are - and Currie either doesn't explain many until near the end of the book, or doesn't

explain them at all.

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Few people really capture the feel of what makes a story like Star Wars so good - it's something that Evan Currie does with each book. We're not talking overly intellectual hard sci fi here; rather, Currie channels all the things that make a story like Star Wars popular, exuberant, and accessible. Always expect several POVs, lots of action, sudden deaths, and likable characters - and don't let some of the cliches trip you up along the way. Though not a part of the Odyssey One universe, still a great read just like all his books.

Story: The empire under the Scourwind family has prospered but one general is about to do the unthinkable - topple the emperor and wrest control himself. In the balance stands the cadre - the elite warrior force who are extremely powerful but badly outnumbered. Only the emperor's children, twins Lydia and Brennan Scourwind, can prevent the empire from completely collapsing. But will there be anything left to save?

I greatly enjoyed Heirs of Empire (listened to the audible version, so please forgive any misspellings). Yes, there are some logic issues; e.g., the general who calls all his people 'idiots' and 'stupid' yet inexplicably has a horde of blindly loyal followers. As well, there are some cliched writing examples in there (e.g., someone bleeding to death described as watching 'his lifeblood flowing away') and the villain, General Corian, is eeeeevil to the point of being a mustachio-twirling, cackling, stereotype. it's still greatly enjoyable bubble gum sci fi. Add in the twins and their suspiciously lucky skill sets (ace pilot and hacker) plus the top warrior finding them and you get a formidable trio if perhaps a not very credible one.

I did have a lot of Star Wars moments and this book reads very much like an homage or love of sci fi for all ages. From the twins feeling very Luke and Leia since one is a pilot and the other statesman (minus the "I'm your father." thing) to a showdown between the emperor and the general that had dialogue so much like the Obi Wan/Darth battle in Episode IV. Add in some mysterious weapons (read: lightsabers) that only the elite can use and a mystery behind where they came from and you get the idea. Let's not forget descriptive names like "scourwind" and "Delsol" and the characters being a part of a rebellion against an emperor. It may sound like a bad thing, or derivative, but it really isn't. Currie's works are familiar yet also surprisingly unique.

Those wondering if this is a series: it ends a solid story arc but does leave room for sequels down the line.

So yes, a fun book with space battles, a fallen empire, very engaging characters, and several POVs. It's greatly surprising none of his books have been made into a movie yet - they certainly are cinematic and with such broad appeal. This book made for an especially fun car trip with the audible version and the family listening in (teens).

Liviu says

technically sf (tech, language etc) but with a fantasy structure (emperor, nobles, tech as magic, far future people seeing the universe as mysterious etc) and very standard stuff in the genre with competent writing that

didn't quite click the way other recent similar novels did; still enough narrative momentum to keep me engaged until the (fairly predictable) end - end which closes the novel's immediate story-line (see the blurb for that) but obviously requires a sequel

overall, standard stuff with prose and characters that were ok but didn't quite click, so the generic-ness of the book rendered it average but fast and finishable

Lisandy Mateo says

Good

I am fan of Currie's Odyssey books , including The King of Thieves. I saw this new book, and patiently waited for the audio to come out. In this book, you get a new story with a strong heroine (which I liked), and two "sidekicks" : the young heirs. It is an engaging and interesting new storyline, even if written in the same multi-character view that Evan Currie usually approaches.

Things I found similar to previous books: Currie likes his "uniquely synced weapons (the Archangels in the Odysseus and here "the Armati") I don't really know if that is good or bad but throughout the book, I couldn't shake the impression that I was reading a somehow modified version of the Archangels firefighters each time the "unique link" between the Armati and its Cadreman was mentioned. Also the main heroine is like a female version of Eric Weston when it comes to her out of the ordinary strategic decisions.

Despite that, it's an enjoyable book. I recommend it, and I'll be waiting for the next installment.

Henriette says

I read a lot and while my favorite genre is epic fantasy, I've become a little disillusioned with it recently as most series nowadays are plagued by the „draw out the ending as long as possible“ syndrome resulting in either increasingly irregular publishing schedules or a lot of filler books. Whether this is to make more profit or because the authors actually don't know how to end their stories differs from series to series. Anyways, I found this book on Prime Reading and for the first time in quite a while the story entranced me enough that I didn't just read a few pages before going to sleep, but actually kept on reading past midnight. That was a refreshing change.

This book is the first part of a series and basically sets the board for the rest. It is set in a realm were the power is held between the emperor, the senate made up of nobles and representatives for commerce, though the emperor has final saying on all matters. An ex-member of an elite fighting force under direct command of the emperor (so basically futuristic musketeers), the Cadre, called Corian stages a coup and kills the emperor and his eldest son. The two younger children manage to escape. And if at this point you find yourself thinking that this sounds a little like Song of Ice and Fire, then I would have to agree.

The main protagonists of the story are the twins, Lydia and Brennan, and another member of the Cadre, Myra. The latter gathers a pirate crew around herself to attack Corian's supply train and redistributes these resources to the loyalists/rebel forces (depending on your point of view). Furthermore, there is another Cadre member, William, who is trying to coordinate the loyalists in an attempt to regain the throne. Everyone is looking for the twins, as they are the key to holding the empire.

Swashbuckling pirates and heirs to the throne sticking it to the evil usurper. An an antagonists who doesn't just twirl his mustache while chuckling in an evil manner and monologuing. Or who isn't evil for the sake of being evil, but actually has an understandable motive. More on that later. In short the book is loads of fun to read.

The genre of this book is a little hard to define. At first glance it may seem like science fantasy as especially the Armati seem a little supernatural, but I think there is actually a technological explanation even to them. Currie takes the time to explain some of his technology and I actually quite enjoyed the gliders that shoot kite-like sails into the atmosphere to move forward. I got the impression that they are living on little pieces of Earth that were cut out of the planet's surface and transformed into space stations, so the genre actually seems to be mundane science fiction. The world building is quite nice and is probably going to take more of a front seat as the series progresses.

Now to my minor grievances. The first is that the author seems to have changed his mind somewhere along the line. In the beginning the emperor for example is once described as a sadistic bastard and you would think that this is the reason for the uprising. However, as you learn more about him it becomes patently obvious that he took ruling the kingdom seriously and devoted all his time to it (maybe not a great quality in a father, but certainly for a ruler). And tyrants in general don't have loyalists. Even Corian calls him old friend. The issue here is consistency and could have been easily solved by editing the beginning.

Somewhere in the first half Corian explains his actual motivation for killing the emperor, which brings me to my second grievance. The following spoiler has very little impact on the plot of the first book, but I still need to point out that there is going to be one. Ready?

Apparently on one of his recon missions beyond the God Wall, Corian found some kind of obscure threat to the empire (probably ice zombies). Because he believed that the emperor didn't take this threat seriously (though I disagree based on some of the weapons such as the Caleb Bar that he had developed in secret), he decided to take over the empire, so that he could prepare and defend it against said threat. On the one hand, that makes Corian an interesting villain, because (unlike some of his allies) he wasn't in it for power or personal gain, but actually trying to protect the empire. It was also interesting to see how difficult Corian then found leading an empire compared to an army. On the other hand, his actions destabilized the empire he sought to protect, because now he has an internal struggle on his hands (and of course senators trying to use the conflict to widen their own power base). And you can't help thinking that he could have avoided all that, if he had presented those findings to his fellow Cadremen and together they could have tried to convince the emperor of the danger. This is a minor grievance as failure to communicate is a common problem and Corian's arrogance (he basically believed himself to be smarter than everyone else also a common failing) didn't exactly help matters.

Overall a great book and I am definitely going to continue reading this series. Let's just hope he doesn't draw it out til kingdom come, creating the distinct possibility of me not living long enough to actually read the end.

Eric says

3.5 stars

This story, for some reason, has a Star Wars-ish feel to it. Maybe it's because I went to see *Solo* at the movies

last weekend. Anyway, this is a reasonably fun science-fiction/fantasy story. I listened to the audiobook and the narration is good.

Corian used to be a general in the empire's elite forces called the Cadre. He is now an enemy of the empire enroute to a high security facility in the middle of the desert. Corian is very dangerous so another Cadre is assigned to make sure Corian is securely transported to his incarceration. They travel by supersonic train. Corian escapes when the train gets highjacked. Not before Mira causes injuries to Corian that leaves him with a prosthetic leg and a missing eye.

The conspiracy runs deep and Corian overthrows the empire. All of the Scourwind family is killed except for a set of teenage twins: brother and sister. Brennan and Lydia escape the fortress and wind up with some pirates led by Mira Delsol. Mira has vendetta to kill Corian. She doesn't trust anyone so she has gone rogue. She unofficially supports the Scourwind twins.

Just before Brennan's older brother is killed, he gives Brennan his Cadre weapon. A weapon that only responds to particular people. Does the weapon respond to Brennan's unskilled hands? Yes. Brennan is also a naturally skilled pilot who tends to be a bit reckless. While Brennan is a diamond in the rough in military-oriented skills, Lydia's has skills to lead. She seems well suited to be empress of the empire.

The Cadre is an elite fighting force who have ancient mystical weapons at their disposal. Weapons that chose the person rather than the other way around. There's practically nothing that a Cadre can't do. They are not popular among the population because they are dangerous so they tend to keep to themselves.

The characters are mostly two-dimensional so I had a hard time trying connect or identity with them. In the context of the story, this seems to work okay. There are no space ships in this story. The ships and vehicles used to get around are

high-tech sail ships. These ship eject sails into the atmosphere to catch winds at various elevations above the surface.

Although there are a lot of familiar story elements in this book, the author mixes it up with other things to make this a fun and entertaining read.

Dragana says

Likes:

- + Interesting idea. A mix of fantasy and sf. There are castles, nobles, empire in peril. But there is futuristic technology also. Reminded me of 'Star Wars'.
- + Twin siblings. Loved how they develop from spoiled royalties to survivors and how they used all 'stupid' things the teachers thought them to stay alive.
- + Awesome tech.
- + Musings about what it takes to be a leader.
- + Perfect ending
- + I have a huge girl-crush on Mira Desol. She dominated my heart as surely as that awesome book cover. I loved her daring and how she broke the rules when fighting. I'm sorry the whole book is not about her.

Mira by then had a predatory look on her face. "Oh, and you might want to tell the crew to secure for maneuvering."

"Yes, my lady," he answered dutifully, reaching for the ship's blower.

"Gas." Mira's voice caused him to pause and glance back.

"Yes?"

"Make sure they're really secure."

Oh hell. Gaston groaned. It was going to be one of those days.

Dislikes:

- Too many characters and POVs. I felt disconnected from the story.
- Sometimes there are too many unnecessary descriptions. For example: what is happening to human body when hit by some high tech bullets.

This was fun. Now I want to re-watch Star Wars! Recommended.

Nancy says

I enjoyed this especially the character, Mira Delsol. She is a warrior, a pirate, and a brilliant strategist. General Coriander was a great villain and I enjoyed his battles with Mira. This is a great start to a new series and I hope that there will be more soon.

☆Anna☆ says

Too many POV changes for any character development to take place. I found it hard to believe some of the changes in character motivations, especially the twins. It's a shame because the world building was very interesting.

Bradley says

So I was reading this old-style fantasy adventure with the stalwart knight picking up and protecting the young children of the rightful king who had just been deposed right in his castle. After a few cool battles and gathering together all the outcasts that this female knight could find, they rally behind the idea of the children and the empire and take on the deposing military to reinstall the monarchy.

Have you heard this one before?

Yeah. Me, too.

I think SF is learning the wrong lessons from the recent popularity of Fantasy. We don't want the extremely tired STORIES of the old Fantasy regime. We want modern Fantasy's facile willingness to break all the rules and while enjoying awesome rule-based magic systems that harken to the days of old-tyme SF reliance on science-in-story.

So what happened? Did we run out of good tales to tell?

Oh, all right, this space-opera adventure did have its good moments. The writing was comprehensible and

very vivid in moments. A good deal of the high-tech was pretty damn awesome to see in action, just like a wonderful modern-fantasy magic battle, and I think I'll also say that I loved the trains a lot more than I originally did. That was some neat piece of juxtaposition for the novel.

I just wish the bare-bones of the story was more original. Hell, I can't believe I'm saying this, but I'd have welcomed some convoluted politics and treachery after a while, just to break up the monotony of fighting. I'm not a huge fan of MilSF. I tolerate it. This wasn't exactly bad, but it tires me out. I want meat to my stories, cleverness to the plot, depth to my characters. This novel was serviceable, but the only thing that really stood out was the tech and the glam.

If you're looking for tech and glam, then I'm sure you'll love this novel! :)

I'm not giving up on Currie, mind you. This is only my first shot at his work, and I promised that I'd dig into Homeworld and I will. I might just have to wait until I refill my batteries, first. :)
