



Mission of Honor

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The Star Kingdom of Manticore and the Republic of Haven have been enemies for Honor Harrington's entire life, and she has paid a price for the victories she's achieved in that conflict. And now the unstoppable juggernaut of the mighty Solarian League is on a collision course with Manticore. The millions who have already died may have been only a foretaste of the billions of casualties just over the horizon, and Honor sees it coming.

She's prepared to do anything, risk anything, to stop it, and she has a plan that may finally bring an end to the Havenite Wars and give even the Solarian League pause. But there are things not even Honor knows about. There are forces in play, hidden enemies in motion, all converging on the Star Kingdom of Manticore to crush the very life out of it, and Honor's worst nightmares fall short of the oncoming reality.

But Manticore's enemies may not have thought of everything after all. Because if everything Honor Harrington loves is going down to destruction, it won't be going alone.

Mission of Honor Details

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Author : David Weber

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From Reader Review Mission of Honor for online ebook

Barb in Maryland says

My oh my, when Weber wraps up a long running story arc he does it in style. For long time fans of the series--this is the book we have been waiting for. Finally the truth about the doctored documents (War of Honor, 2002), the assassination of Ambassador Webster, the attempted assassinations of Queen Berry and Honor (At All Costs, 2005) are laid out during peace negotiations between Haven and Manticore. Finally, the leaders of both countries wake up and smell the coffee, as it were, regarding the nefarious 3rd party that has been doing a great deal of long term manipulating. Hooray, we fans shout, at long last.

Of course, this being Weber, The Mesan Alignment's little surprise (the final scenes of Storm From the Shadows, 2009) is a really, really devastating to Manticore and to Honor. As Weber has proved in past books (At All Costs, especially), he is not afraid to kill off minor characters we have come to love.

Oh, and let's not forget the heating up of hostilities between Manticore and the Solarian League (Shadow of Saganami 2004, Storm From the Shadows, 2009). Cachat and Zilwicki get to deliver their own little surprise, too (begun in Torch of Freedom, 2009).

At one point I was contemplating making a spread sheet so I could track when which action began, the storylines had become so intertwined.

The last chapter is worth the price of the book and the final scene is absolutely delicious. Okay Weber, we're ready for the next round--bring on the Mesan Alignment, bring on the Sollies and do it NOW.

A couple of other thoughts--for a Weber book this was mighty short (a mere 600 pages). He had his tech info-dumping under control, as there were only two major battles, so the non-missile geeks amongst us weren't overwhelmed. There were lots of cameo appearances of people from the early books (yes, Scotty Tremaine and Chief Harkness and Rafe Cardones are okay--Weber hasn't killed them off in this one).

A word of warning for those curious about the series--this is NOT the book to start with.

Christopher says

Mission of Honor begins shortly after the events of the previous book At All Costs following on from the build up of tensions with the Solarian League and the Battle of Manticore where the Manticorians essentially knocked their long term enemies the Republic of Haven out of the war they had been de facto fighting between them for almost two decades! :D

Much of Mission of Honor is spread over a wide breadth of characters with naturally Honor featuring heavily as she leads for a large proportion of the books a diplomatic mission in person to the Havenite capital of Nouveau Paris in order to secure a peace treaty with them :D The other parts of the book follow Countess Michelle Henke Gold Peak and her ships as they wrestle with Solarian aggression in the Talbot Cluster! :D

The two sides of the story are extremely well handled and both work off of each other in an excellent way with both being used simultaneously to show the very different aspects of the conspiracy that is starting to

come to light to each of the big players involved! :D The gradual discovery on the Mesan conspiracy and involvement of countless individuals and systems comes to light and More Than Honor does a great job of showing everyone ones light bulb moment as this all comes to light! :D At the same time though it is equally obvious that by attacking Manticore and setting off a chain of events earlier than they had planned and intelligence failure that they suffer that they themselves are completely oblivious as well! :D This provides an an excellent backdrop to the Havenite/Manticorian peace talks as well as the Situation with Admiral Henke's task force as pieces start to fall into place into the minds of the many characters in the book! :D Unfortunately for Messa not in the way they would like leaving the blissfully unaware of the renewed threat which is bound to have massive consequences in the next books! :D It will be a case of freedom loving Star Nations versus Eugenics Pro Evil Slavers! :D Lol

As ever characterisation is brilliant throughout for every character involved right down to the the minor characters who may only get one or two lines! :D The are characters are put through the gambit throughout the book pushing through the range of the emptions! :D You will find your self booing the 'bad guys', picking your jaw off the ground through one huge event after another and throughout cheering as The Manties and the Havenites outwit and outfight everything thrown at them! :D Not to mention the Elizabeth Winters speech which promises serious repercussions! :D Lol

There is also a lot of humour throughout the book which keeps the tone of the book so upbeat and marries the cataclysmic events that take place perfectly! :D

The ending of the book is perfectly done with the new peace treaty and military alliance between Manticore and The Republic of Have secure! :D President Pritchards offer of 300 Ships of the wall to help the Manticorians 'save ammunition' is a classic example of big events combined with humour which set things up perfectly for the next book with Solarian League fleet approaching! :D

It's to be noted though that is very helpful if you have read other books from the series as a lot characters from them make appearances in More Than Honor and events are referred to! :D

Brilliant edge of the seat stuff for of events on a great scale, grim chins, nefarious and heroic characters, large battles, internecine politics and heroics! :D Highly recommended! :D Great to have the next books! :D Lol

Josh says

The is the 12th outing in the Honor Harrington series, which has grown to the point that it's spawned short story collections and off-shoots elsewhere into the same universe. I was addicted to these for a while, but book 10 was disappointing and book 11 was even worse so I'd kind of given up.

The book made me happy to be back.

One of the biggest problems I was having with the series is at a certain point characters like this run out of places to go that have the same kind of action of the earlier stories, if you're going to maintain the same element of realism that has marked this series. One of the hallmarks of the "Honorverse" is it has logical political systems, military hierarchy & tactics, explainable technology, etc. But at a certain point a character like Honor Harrington just isn't going to get a front-line ship command any longer: the rewards of prior success get you promoted to the point where you're devising and executing grand strategy, not commanding

a tactical battle. Weber went through some pretty serious gyrations in previous books to keep Harrington out there as long as he did. (Weber has even acknowledged the problem)

Which brings you to the second problem the Harrington books were having: Honor just isn't as interesting any longer. Why? Because she's gotten so super-human it's hard to see her ever really losing. All that's remained is to rip apart her emotional support system, killing off her friends, which is aggravating to lose characters you still care about and haven't been fully explored. (Yes, I'm still bitter about losing Alister McKeon, one of my favorite characters from the entire series. Sigh) I've also NEVER bought the romantic angle with Admiral White Haven; it's felt forced the entire time and a drag on the whole series.

That's all the bad that started piling up in the later books. But overall, there's been a course correction in *Mission* that's made for a pretty gripping tale. Instead of the whole thing being focused around Honor, she's more a player in a greater mosaic, and in a role that makes perfect sense for her now exalted station. Instead of saving the day through sheer awesomeness, she's a conduit for others this time, more of a facilitator than just the bestest hero who ever heroed.

There's an argument to be made that Weber hasn't laid enough groundwork for the extremely intricate plot that's finally come to fruition here, and there's a touch of the Beowulf Problem here (what do you do once the hero kills the dragon, send in the dragon's mother?) but overall that's a relatively minor quibble. It's a gripping yarn as the players all scramble to figure out what's going on and how they fit in. Importantly, there's a very nicely designed understanding of the realities of politics showing how much depends on your point of view, and how personal desires can be overcome by the needs to satisfy the competing interests of the government, etc.

I find myself looking forward to the next book more than I have in a long time. This series is getting some fresh life by allowing other characters to take a more prominent role and making it less of a Honor-led series and more of an ensemble piece. There's still a little too much of Honor as the vastly more superior being than the rest of the peons, but the tensions are rising and watching the rest of it play out should be fun.

Miki Habryn says

I know Weber must be very sick of writing these by now, but I *love* reading them. They're my reference for epic space opera. I'm not even irritated by the unsubtle references to parallel plot lines that are unfolding in interstitial short story anthologies, since the hardcover comes with a CD that probably has the entire corpus of relevant work on it and more, and if I didn't have another much anticipated book waiting for me, I'd be diving into it now. Valour, treachery, royalty, assassins, love, loss, romance, loathing and giant exploding spaceships. What's not to like?

(the delay between subsequent novels, that's what)

Jim says

While an interesting addition to the Honor series, Weber is getting far too wordy for my taste. The universe has expanded a lot, so it does require more points of view & explanation, but I think he's going too far. There were a lot of long meetings between characters. I avoid meetings in real life. They're certainly not the stuff of

which my fantastic dreams are made of, so their sheer number were a disappointment.

Weber tries to capture some immediacy with a lot of little sections from the point of view of disposable characters - everyday folks who are caught up in all the mess. That didn't work very well, IMO.

The story ends well enough. While there is plenty more to come, I can certainly wait until next March when *A Rising Thunder* is supposed to be published.

Poliwalk says

This book was false advertising in my mind. It claims to be the 12th book in the Honor Harrington series but really it's another worlds of Honor book with her making a few appearances in some of the chapters. I'd be fine with that if the book jacket, cover, etc. made that point apparent. Moreover, this book has moved so far away from everything I loved about the early books. There is very little of the great action scenes and fun character interaction. Instead, almost the entire book is devoted to side characters, overly detailed plot, and way too much buildup to what was for me an anticlimactic ending. Granted, like the stupid consumer I am, I'll probably read the next book but it sure as hell better blow this one out of the water.

Tracy Mazur says

Ugh. For an "Honor Harrington" book she was hardly freaking in it. This could have been 200-300 pages less, or had more content about the main characters of the series, and it would have been MUCH better. I'm ashamed to say that I skimmed nearly all the sections with the Solarian League and barely gave more attention to the stuff with Gold Peak - and I actually like her.

Very disappointed. I even took a break from the series before reading this one so I wouldn't be burned out.

Kathy Davie says

First read 24 Nov 2010 and again 7 April 2012.

I do like to catch up with all the books in a series. On the other hand, I hate to catch up when I'm dying to know what's gonna happen next.

Gawd, there is so much happening on so many fronts in *Mission of Honor* and I was so terrified at what would happen I couldn't decide if I should tear through the book or set it aside every few chapters to stave off the bad news.

While this particular story is supposedly about Honor with her diplomatic mission to Haven, the honors were shared fairly equally with Mike and her battles with the Sollies. I'm wondering if this is Weber's way of easing Honor out of the picture...I sure hope not.

In the meantime, Manpower is very definitely flexing its hidden muscles with devastating consequences but things may not be going all their way for very much longer...

The Second Read...

Twelfth in the Honor Harrington military science fiction series.

My Take

Be sure you've taken your blood pressure meds...ya gonna need 'em as you read through one heart-jumping situation after another!

Betrayals and idiots abound...hey, it's a patronage military system in the Solarian Navy, politicians are everywhere, and megalomaniac Nazi-types are currently running supreme. They've been scamming the systems for decades if not centuries and slowly, oh, so, slowly, those being conned are...oh, so, slowly...figuring it out.

There are great triumphs and great tragedies, yet, with this glimmer of light coming through and the integrity of Honor Harrington shining, there seems to be hope. I just love this series...actually, everything by David Weber has been fabulous. But I particularly enjoy the HH series as Weber is so incredibly detailed in both his descriptions of the ships, the battles, the weaponry, AND he creates the most incredible characters and worlds. Weber snatches bits from the French Revolution to create the People's Republic of Haven, our Earth is now the Solarian League which feels like such a natural result, but its democratic principles and the nature of man have created a corrupt society that needs to evolve, the current Star Empire of Manticore is (I like to think!) what the United States was intended to be in its early shining glory, while Manpower/Mesa/the Mesan Alliance is generations of genetically created super-humans who believe they are the "master race".

I just can't emphasize the incredible detail Weber has put into this series. Absolutely amazing!

I've read this installment before and caught it up again to prepare for *A Rising Thunder* and found details I had missed in that earlier reading. Wooh, I am so ready to find out what happens next...Elizabeth has finally met with Eloise. An SLN fleet of 300 ships of the wall are threatening...and the Manties are pissed!!

The Cover and Title

The cover is oh, so Baen with its brilliant colors and cartoony spaceships attacking the planet encircling a saluting Honor.

Yep, it's definitely a *Mission of Honor* as Admiral Alexander-Harrington flies off to Haven to negotiate an end to the war between the People's Republic and Manticore.

Brian Palmer says

In some ways, this was better than the previous book in the series -- it was less about huge numbers and starting to get more into intrigue. Honor Harrington was in fewer military battles; I've read that she was originally intended to be killed in the previous book, and here it seems Weber could have pulled it off.

On the other hand, Weber has either one or maaaybe two voices that he uses consistently for every single one of his characters' dialogue; for a book that features as many POV characters as this, and as reliant as it is on establishing what's going on through overhearing conversations, that's not good.

I'm giving it three stars because there were scenes every few pages which made me slow down and read; and, when the *third* evil superpower threatening Manticore revealed its plot, it actually was super-audacious.

And, Weber takes some structural risks -- the biggest space battle in this book comes midway through, rather than the Hollywood-style huge pitched battle wound up in the closing pages as most of the other books in the series have.

Ron says

Weber is on a roll. I hesitate to award this book five stars because of the way it ends but the story doesn't. But, as any Honor Harrington reader who has gotten this far in the series knows, "If you can't take a joke. . . ."

Now that his new threat has found traction, Weber has left the mind-numbing recapitulations behind and forged into new plot territory. The action is varied, interwoven and galactic.

A good read.

P.H. Solomon says

As usual, Weber tells a winding tale with long-running character, Honor Harrington. This book is chocked full of intrigue and the resulting tension - but only after a bit of a slow start. At times it's as dense as a Le Carre book but seems to bog down at times for no reason. Overall, I enjoyed this edition of the series.

Allan says

Mission of Honor is the twelfth book in the Honor Harrington series by David Weber. The story takes place right after Storm in the Shadows and At All Costs. In At All Costs Honor and her eighth fleet have smashed the Havenite navy and the war between both star nations is over. The only thing left is to finally have a treaty between them. In the Talbott cluster, Admiral Michel Henke has just defeated a squadron of the Solarian navy, and the Solarians are not happy about it.

Throughout the history of the Honorverse novels David Weber has created many memorable characters. All of the surviving characters make an appearance in this novel, although someone of them just get a brief mention. The book tends to jump around a lot between different characters and locations in an attempt to tie up as many loose ends as possible it seems. Events in the storyline are coming to a head and this book seems to be a bridge between the different Honorverse storylines.

The two main plots of this book revolve around Haven and the Solarian League. Now that the Havenite war is over, it is time to make peace according to both sides. Early in the book, Honor takes her eighth fleet directly to Haven to negotiate with President Pritchard. Much like other diplomatic endeavors throughout the books, it is wrought with political intrigue, although this time it is much more subdued and things seem to go well. The Solarian navy has been putting pressure on the Manticoran efforts in the Talbott cluster since the wormhole had been found. They were not happy with Henke defeating their battle cruisers, but they are unwilling to believe such a small star nation could have much better technology than the mighty Solarian League. They are wrong of course, but that doesn't stop them from ratcheting up the stakes and sending super dreadnaughts at the problem.

The story moves quickly throughout the book, in some places perhaps a little too quickly. The plot however, moves forwards much more quickly than previous books and is a welcome change since it seems as though there is a lot left to cover. In this way, it feels like the Wheel of Time novel, *A Gathering Storm*, and is just as epic.

Overall, this book is a needed addition to the Honorverse series. It brings a multitude of plot lines together and gives us an update on all the major characters. The plot moved forward and the reader gets a sense that the series is nearing its end which will be action packed and truly epic. The story is as well written as other Weber tales and It's Geektime gives *Mission of Honor* an 8 on the d10 of Science Fiction.

Alaina says

Okay, the series is still entertaining, I'll give the author that. But several books ago it started getting too damn complicated for its own good, and this book is a perfect example of that. Weber seems to be running out of ideas and therefore resorts to introducing bigger and badder superweapons, more devastating battles with the Worst! Casualties! Ever! (including the deaths of even more of our favorite characters, just to keep us "invested"), and insanely Byzantine and improbable conspiracies. Lest that sound too exciting, keep in mind that at least three quarters of the book is just people sitting in rooms talking to each other. Like I said, it can be entertaining, but it's probably time to put this series to bed.

Chuck says

74 out of 100 for 2010

As I flipped the last page I screamed out loud at David Weber, "You jackass--you CAN'T stop there." I then shared several salty phrases, which, as an ex sailor, I am entitled to utter.

That's how engaging this book is.

The war with the Haven is militarily concluded, and yet, people on the Haven and the Manticoran sides are unwilling to conclude a peace agreement--partially because of a generational distrust between the two peoples, and partially because some within both sides see personal gain in continued warfare.

Honor Harrington has been sent to Haven to conduct negotiations to bring about a peace treaty.

However, the "Sollies"--the Solarian League, have ineptly picked a fight with the Manticoarean Navy and, not surprisingly, gotten their heads handed to them. Rather than admit fault, they ignore their own intelligence estimates and conclude that the defeat was not because of any military, technological, or tactical superiority of the Manties but because of their own commanders incompetence.

They attack again, losing an entire fleet, without one Manticoarean death.

Then, Manticore itself is attacked by an outside military power no one knows anything about, the Mesans, whose goal is to reestablish genetic slaver in the galaxy.

Now that the seemingly invulnerable Manties are reeling, many Havenites see no need to conclude peace (even though their leadership, which is mostly honorable) wants it. And the Sollies see Manties weakness as an excuse to launch an invasion of the home system, designed to give the Manties a death blow.

However, the Havenites discover that the Mesans have orchestrated everything--the war between Haven and the Manties, the hostility between the Sollies and the Manties, and the corruption within the Solarian league itself. It is part of a large, generations long plan to destabilize all the strong governments in the galaxy so that the Mesans can "rise to the top." And because they are genetically engineered people who consider themselves supermen, they feel being "on top" is their evolutionary right.

So, as the Manties clean up from the destruction caused by the Mesan sneak attack (which, of course, no one knew was caused by the Mesans), and as the Sollies bear down on Manticore with the biggest fleet ever assembled in human history, Eloise Pritchard, the President of Haven, shows up, unannounced, with Honor Harrington, personally promising peace with the Manties and proposing a military alliance between eh Peeps and the Manties to protect all of them from this "Third Reichesque" plot dreamed up by the Mesans.

Which is where Weber ended the damned book. ARGH!

This is about as good as Weber can get. The military action is top flight, the political intrigue is compelling, and even the hard sf extrapolation sections describing drives and weapons systems (the stuff that, in other Weber fiction, drags) is compelling.

Helluva book.

Andreas says

Book 12 in the “main” Honor Harrington series finds Manticore finally confronting the Solarian League. As Weber has been hinting at for years, Manticore (and to a lesser degree, Haven) have both achieved very significant technological superiority compared to the league with regards to military hardware. The Solarian League is huge and powerful, but also complacent, arrogant, and full of self-delusion. Added to the mix is the growing threat from Mesa/Manpower. The main action in this book is divided between Michelle Henke’s trouncing of a Solarian Navy task force, an attack on Manticore by Mesa, and most importantly Honor’s mission to Haven to broker peace. After the Battle of Manticore, Haven does not have much choice but to accept Manticore’s terms.

What with the two spin-off series (Saganami Island and Torch of Freedom) and the increasingly complex macro plot, the series is spinning out of control a bit, in the sense that it is becoming almost too intricate for the action to shine through. Like most people, I started reading the series because it combined strong action with strong characters and an interesting but not too complicated macro story. While I do enjoy the additional facets to the Honorverse that are being uncovered, the whole thing does make for rather ponderous novels at this point. Long gone are the days of “On Basilisk Station” or “Honor Among Enemies”, where the mission was relatively simple and there was only one main plot.

Don’t get me wrong, I can live with the complications. Unfortunately Weber’s writing style has also become almost insufferably ponderous. There’s internal dialog after internal dialog, and endless conference scenes. The first third of the book is pretty much one meeting after another, with long breaks for internal dialog. To add insult to injury, about two thirds could have been cut. Every character seems to exhaust every option of

every single train of thought or statement. “Oh I know this is not a perfect plan, but on the other hand this and that.” Ad nauseam. Mr. Weber, your readers are smart enough to draw those conclusions without needing them spelled out. There’s also endless summarizing of events from previous books. I did a lot of skimming at this point.

And don’t get me started on the conference scenes that start by introducing ten or twelve new characters with a paragraph or two each. How are we, as readers, supposed to keep track of all those? And why should we, given that most are never seen again?

The middle of the book mostly gets back to old form, with some nice action scenes. Weber really is a master of these. It’s a shame he still feels the need to pause the action for a page or two of internal dialog every so often.

Unfortunately, the last third of the book is back to conferences, though it is not as bad as the first third since by now the characters have something to actually talk about.

The real shame here is that the story and characters are really great. A good editor could have cut the fat and made this book half as long, at the same time transforming it into a gripping page turner like the early books in the series. Nevertheless, I suppose I shall have to continue reading. After twelve books I am pretty invested in this epic story.

<http://www.books.rosboch.net/?p=949>
