



Ghost Ship

Sharon Lee , Steve Miller

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New novel in the Liaden Universe(R) series. Over a quarter million copies sold in this series to-date Space ships, action, adventure - all tied together with a strong dollop of romance and family saga - make this a compelling series for a wide range of readers, from romance to military SF lovers alike. Theo Waitley is an ace starship pilot - and pure maverick. Her mom is a renown Terran scholar and her birth father is an interstellar aristocrat in hiding. "Whatever," thinks Theo. She still feels like a socially-challenged misfit. But after being selected to train with the best-of-the-best at the pilot academy, she figures she can leave behind those gawky, misfit days of teenage angst that made life so "complicated" before. But for Theo, life is about to get even MORE complicated - and deadlier still. For even though she's survived the Academy and become one of the best pilots in the galaxy, the past is about to blast her with gale-force winds. Theo can run, but she can't hide. Her destiny as master pilot and leader of a powerful Liaden clan calls, and there are LOTS of enemies who will try to make sure she's quite dead before she has the chance to make an answer.

Ghost Ship Details

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From Reader Review Ghost Ship for online ebook

Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says

An ARC is an uncorrected advanced reader copy sent out to people who will recommend the book. An ARC from Baen is a little different. When Baen has a book everyone is waiting for they will offer the ARC as an ebook priced at \$15.00. It is a good deal for the author and the publisher, and fills a need for those of us who can't for the final copy of the book to be released. To make it an even better deal for the author and publisher most of us buy a paper copy of the book when it is finally released. In my case I have a signed copy of Ghost Ship on order from Uncle Hugo's book store.

Ghost Ship (Liaden Universe) is the latest book set in the Liaden Universe by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller. While it is the third book featuring Theo Waitley in the time line it is the book that follows I Dare. Ghost Ship answers some questions, poses some new ones, and lets all of us visit with many of the characters from the previous books. Like all Lee and Miller Liaden books the pacing is great, the character well drawn, the plot full of unexpected turns and it ends with a new questions that needs to be answered. Ghost Ship is a great addition to the series.

If you can't wait to read the book you can purchase the ARC of Ghost Ship by Sharon Lee and Steve Miller from Baen. If you can wait the paper copy will be out in August. For all of the die-hard fans there is another book in the works and it is scheduled to be out in 2012. I hope there will be an ARC released for that one so I will not have as long as wait.

Dan says

Another great story in a great series! 4/26/16 re-read: Very interesting developments on several fronts..

Kathleen says

New splinter segment aligns with Ghost Ship: Kudos to the authors for providing **Daav's Up Early**, a FREE Ghost Ship Splinter story about the clan's arrival on Surebleak, Day 2. It is located on their Splinter Universe website — a delightful, cohesive, and quick read, with Daav, Alleana, Mr. Shaper, Shan, etc.

Hmm. I always perceived **Tree as female**, and this text from chapter 8 seems to support that:

"Memories washed over her [meaning Miri] of being carried, roots cuddled tight inside a pot. Lashings held it oriented, space flowed, strange energies informed her leaves..." (But Tree's gender is still unclear, because both "it" and "her" refer to Tree, so it may have been an oversight.)

By the way, *Ghost Ship* is better in print than audio (Audible)— Eileen Stevens is okay, but not great, and she mispronounces a few words like "mercs" and "Nova" (twice at the beginning of ch 18, later she says it correctly), "frisson" and "quiescent" (but later, she says it correctly). It bugs me that Stevens pronounces some words differently than other narrators did, in prequels that come before Ghost Ship. One example is

"vanchela" (sp?) — a Liaden term of endearment used frequently by Alleana, and pronounced better (IMO) by Andy Caploe, in I Dare. I also don't care for the way she pronounces "Bechimo" the ship (or the way she pronounces the baby's name "Talizia" in Necessity's Child).

As always with these authors, abrupt scene switches interrupt the flow, which is even more problematic when listening.

Some parts of the book are good, but frankly, Theo Waitley is not my favorite character, and she engages in too much introspection. Too much thinking. She's okay, though. I am only minimally interested in Theo's mother, who played a role in *Ghost Ship* but especially in *Dragon Ship*. I skimmed my way through the trivial sections describing Kamele's movements and thoughts, except her final scene in *Dragon Ship*. That scene felt relevant, not trivial.

I liked the scenes with Korval, on Surebleak. I like Clarence. Enjoyed the scenes with Nelirikk, and with Jeeves and Bechimo. Bechimo, the ghost ship, is interesting, and I felt some sympathy for him, but he's not human or animal or even vegetable, so...

Warning: Major plot spoilers below, describing the big events in both books, *Ghost Ship* and *Dragon Ship*. Plot spoilers for both books, with my thoughts embedded: (view spoiler)

Particularly in *Dragon Ship*, I found the writing to be a bit scattered and the battle scenes superficial, with scene hopping supposedly compensating for solid plot development -- the type of long range planning that this type of series requires.

Series Discrepancies: *Ghost Ship* slightly contradicts the short story *Moon in the Hills*, published in Halfling Moon. The discrepancy involves the clan's arrival on the day the Clutch delivered Jelaza Kazone. A minor discrepancy, but noticed.

There is also a minor discrepancy in the description of Tree at night. In *Ghost Ship*, Miri and Val Con were

out at night, "crossing the grass at the garden's dark center, to the greater blackness that was the Tree's monumental bulk." However, in Necessity's Child, when Syl Vor visits the garden at night, Tree is glowing in the dark.

Quibbles aside, for Liaden fans, these two books are essential and enjoyable reads. The two books end with a transformation: Bechimo the lonely, timid ghost, yearning for captain and crew, becomes a dragon. Of sorts.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

In this book we take up the story where 'Saltation' and 'I Dare' left off. A lot of story lines converge and then diverge again. I really enjoyed the aspect of the story that a sentient ship was skulking around in space trying to engineer a meeting with the person it thought was supposed to be its captain. Theo Waitley continues to grow as a character and get somewhat involved with her new clan. There are a lot of loose ends with respect to Kamele, Win Ton, Bechimo and Theo, Uncle, Daav etc. I'm looking forward to the continuing story in Dragon Ship, later this year.

Cthulu says

I loved this, and thought it was some of Lee & Miller's best work. They continue to improve, so I'm hoping for many, many more books (long or short) from them. That said, this one wouldn't be entirely clear to someone who hasn't read other Liaden books by them. I think it was very smart strategy to try to make a new on-ramp, especially for YA readers, with Theo's story. Unfortunately, as much as I've liked Theo's stories they weren't sufficiently carefully explained in order to really be the ideal on ramp they might have been. But, as part of the expanding set of Liaden books I love, it is really terrific writing. They get better with each book, in my opinion. In Ghost Ship they tackle a much more complex structure, with interweaved plots, quite well. I think their writing really started to achieve a new level of skill with the precursor books (set thousands of years earlier than the bulk of the Liaden books) Crystal Soldier and Crystal Dragon. And Ghost Ship's writing is even better. It's a lot more dynamic, less stiff, and with a bit better pruning of unneeded words. So, for fans of Lee & Miller; run, do not walk, to the "buy" button! For newcomers, consider one of their earlier omnibus collections like Pilot's Choice and realize that older writing is a bit rough, but that it is an introduction to a very worthwhile body of work. Overall, I'd say the Liaden books are pretty much some of the best space opera ever written. They have terrific heart, lovable characters, a struggle of truth and competence against foolishness, good plotting, and more; as a result they are some of the few books I read more than once. As the writing has improved each novel has become even more of a joy. Kudos to Lee, Miller for a great piece of fiction. (note: I read an advanced reading copy I bought via their publisher, and bought the h/c too).

Barb in Maryland says

Oh wow, Sharon and Steve really come through with this doubly entwined story. This is a sequel to *Fledgling* and *Saltation* as well as *I Dare*.

Theo has shown up on Liad, right before Clan Korval is moving house, stock and Tree, to Surebleak. She's hunting for her father, because "it's complicated" and finds waaaay more than she was looking for. I truly do not know how much sense this book will make to any reader who is unfamiliar with the whole Lianden Universe. In other words, this is NOT the place to start.

The basic underlying story force is that of Theo learning to accept that the man she knew as Jen Sar Kiladi (and her father), had a whole 'nother life (complete with wife, child, responsibilities, etc etc). And this part of the story is handled exceptionally well. Kudos to Sharon and Steve for not glossing over the emotional havoc that Theo goes through as she tries to align her father with his Liaden counterpart. And then there's the whole confusion re: Scholar Caylon.

And we then are treated to The Uncle . Plus, the Dept. of the Interior is still causing problems.

And can I mention the cliffhanger ending involving Daav???

Katharine Kimbriel says

A new Liaden Universe novel is cause for rejoicing. At long last, we find out what happened after I DARE and SALTATION. Theo Waitley's life may have long stretches of peace connected to it, because she's a commercial pilot, a long-hauler who works alone. But she's also a child of house Korval, and scarcely knows what that means. She has been linked through no fault of her own to an ancient self-willed ship – technology that is banned on some worlds, where on other worlds people will kill you for it. Theo has assassins tracking her, a retired Boss of organized crime as her only possible copilot, a possibly mortally wounded problem lover who only she can help – Theo's life is about to get a lot more complicated.

Now, her mother wants to talk with her. And Theo does NOT want to have that talk, because Theo does not want to explain that the man they thought they knew, Theo's father, was a cover for a retired Liaden Scout...a man who had killed men and ships, and carries the ghost of his dead wife in his head.

If there is any flaw to GHOST SHIP, it's that we now know so much about the Liaden universe that cameo appearances by otherwise deeply important people can slightly jar the rhythm of the book. A good book hints at depths we haven't touched, but the Liaden universe can be like the Fool in a tarot deck – a misstep can send you tumbling down a cliff. This book pauses with a deep breath, but as often happens with Liaden books, many threads carry over to the as yet unpublished sequel.

I have enjoyed the strange world Theo has grown up upon, and her adventures, but I wouldn't start with GHOST SHIP. Back up to FLEDGLING, or even to the very beginning, to AGENT OF CHANGE -- this is THE AGENT GAMBIT in its current publication incarnation.

This series is recommended!

Gary says

A direct sequel to Saltation, this is the third Liaden novel to feature Theo Waitley as its protagonist. This one was a minor let down. The pace was uneven, and the plot spent too much time in a holding pattern. If Theo is so desperate to get Win Ton back from Uncle (as she should be), why does she take so much time before contacting Bechimo? And, once she does, why does she wait so long before relaying the desperate straight he is in? Arrrrgh.....

Joe B says

(contains spoilers!) This is a wonderful continuation of the series BUT. It covers a lot of ground - too lightly - and I do so love Liaden books because of the depth and lyricism of the language and plot investigations. I do have fun with the half of the book which continues Theo's story. But I want to see how Pat Rin feels about the tree landing on his planet; how it's changed his life - I want to know how Cheever's doing - I want to spend a few eternal moments relaxing with Shan - I want to spend enough time with Theo to feel how she thinks like we did in Fledgling and Saltation.

So if it was any other book, I'd give it 4.5

It's a Lee&Miller, so I say, go back, split it into two or three books, write the story again. You guys went too fast on this one.

David Rose says

This one did not flow as well as the others in this sequence which I have read (Fledgling, Saltation), because the focus is broader and includes storylines of other characters - too many other characters, I feel. Had I not also read 'Agent of Change' and 'I Dare', I would have felt completely lost. That said, I'm still addicted ;)

Elektra says

Ghost Ship is two books-in-one. I can make a case for it being two-and-a-half or even three books-in-one, each of them a gem. Let me explain.

This is a stand alone story in the greater world of the Liaden UniverseTM, although those who start their journey here will take some time to figure things out. There are a lot of things packed into this book: star travel, family, adventure, relationships, parties, "Bosses", pilots, juntavas, scouts, 8-foot-tall clutch turtles, scholars, scholarly research, cats, AIs, Department of Interior, strange new ports of call, couriers, traders, trade ships, and The Tree.

First and foremost though, this is the continuation of Theo Waitley's story, begun in the coming of age duology Fledgling/Saltation. But it is also the long-awaited sequel to I Dare, telling the story of Clan

Korval's exit from Liad and the start of their resettlement on Surebleak. In addition to packing in all of those elements, Lee & Miller also slip in some tantalizing scenes that belong in the sequel to Mouse and Dragon, a book that takes place chronologically quite a bit earlier, but was only released into the wild last year.

I enjoyed every moment of the book, and devoured it as soon as I could pry it out of my husband's hands. Inside of two days we had both read it. Among my favorite parts were the interactions of Theo with various members and associates of Clan Korval—Theo has been on her own for a while now, and it's interesting to see her discover a whole new family she didn't know she had—consisting mostly of pilots.

It was also nice to visit with so many old friends and catch up with them. And to get some insight into just what Bechimo (the Ghost Ship of the title) was doing. And even where the PODs came from.

Ghost Ship is complex, layered, fast-paced and fun. It's recommended to everyone who likes science fiction, space opera or adventure.

Mike thinks the book wasn't long enough. I think it needed more turtles. We both loved it and we're waiting eagerly for the next one.

Jacqueline says

Finally the book I've been waiting nearly 10 years for. Picks up where I Dare leaves off. The other two books that caught Theo up to this point were not the best even though they might have been necessary. Although I debate that since they could have been condensed I think into at least one book. Well anyway finally we get back to Korval and ships. There was plenty of space opera action here and we got to see the settling of Clan Korval onto Surebleak. It was wonderful to see most of my old favorites again. Love the fact that there is a sequel out next month. Can't wait.

Estara says

[(and the birth of their child) (hide spoiler)]

Karen says

I started this book after the second book in the Theo series, and I found I was very confused. So I stopped reading it and read the series in order of publication. Then I restarted the book. I am so glad I did because Ghost Ship is a very good book. I just love Bechimo.

05/12/2018: Started this again, this time in Series chronological order. I added another star to this book. It really is that good.

Peter Tillman says

Abandoned at p.70, since I couldn't make heads or tails of what was going on, or care much either. Theo's Dad & his family moved a gigantic *tree* to what appears to be Gangster World. Say what?

I skipped over Theo #2, as our library doesn't have it, and I would have had to *buy* a copy. What a concept! Apparently this was a poor decision on my part. So I might come back to the series at #2, in the sweet bye & bye.... Sadly, my luck with the Liaden Universe has been spotty at best.
