



The Sapphire Sirens

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Zach Johnson, the world's last freelance detective, has been man-napped by the beautiful sapphire-haired Amazon Kiana. She's brought him to her home island of Lantis-where the women dominate men with their words-to discover who killed her mother, the Queen. But to save the day this time, Zach and his holographic A.I. sidekick HARV have to tangle with not just one gorgeous superwoman, but four. Each of Kiana's three sisters could have the motive and the means to pull off the crime-and now that you mention it, Kiana could too...

The Sapphire Sirens Details

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Author : John Zakour

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From Reader Review The Sapphire Sirens for online ebook

Don says

Not as good as previous Zach Johnson novels, this was still fun. (This seems to be the standard review for the last couple Zach Johnson books. I hope John Zakour picks it back up some.)

Ines says

Somewhere in the future, Zach is the last private detective on Earth. He is fond of the old times, but has a computer implanted in his brain and is a better detective for it. When real-paper baseball cards are stolen from the house of a former player, Zach is asked to track down the cards. What seems like a normal case turns out to be a test for a much bigger problem that involves the mythical island of Lantis. Not Atlantis, Lantis.

It is impossible not to love Zach and his crazy sci-fi adventures. I particularly enjoyed this one. Even though it is not as crazy as previous ones, such as The Radioactive Redhead, it still is fun and crazy enough to make us enjoy the mad mysterious adventures Zach gets himself into. This book made me laugh and at the same time think about the way women and men live together in this world. The story finishes with a nice touch and I have to recommend it to both comedy and sci-fi fans.

Scott Zimmerman says

I love all these books by Zakour...quick reads and very entertaining!

Wing Kee says

A pulpy junk food is wonderful!

I know how ridiculous this book is and how parts of it is very...dated in it's portrayal of things, but sometimes I just want to turn of my PC brain and just enjoy something akin to Edgar Rice Burroughs and this is it. Pure pulpy homage goodness!

So, this is the last book in the series, boooo, and I've been putting off reading this book for a while simply because I did not want it to end. So, how was the end of this series? Both very good and also very disappointing.

World: By book 5 this world is really fully fleshed out in all it's crazy weirdness. As with the other books it's a parody of pulpy SF/Noir and it is fun. I like Zakour's ability to create an odd world and still make it fun. The oddness and absurdity of the world is what I like most about the books. This time around we get a new locale which is the norm now for this series and it is a fun local. However, I can see why this series needed to end as I can imagine Zakour was quickly running out of story locations for Johnson to visit. Still very good

and fun, but I wished there were more.

Story: Just like a good bag of chips. This is pure junk food and it's fun. The story is paced like all the other books with beats like all the other books and character types like all the other books. But that's what makes me like this series, it's very formulaic which is pulpy to the Nth degree. Being the last story in the series, I do love the fact that Zakour pretty much pulled out all the characters from the other 6 books to have cameos here and it was a big shot of nostalgia that made this book stand out. It's still the same good pulpy romp that I have come to love, but yes the cast of characters was nice. What I did not like, and it's the biggest problem with this book, is the ending. It ends on a good note but being the last book there is no grand sense of closure for the characters. It merely feels like the end of this book and if possible another book will follow, but I know that it's not gonna happen as the author has moved on to other things. It's a minor annoyance to an otherwise fun romp, but it did bump the book down a star.

Characters: All the fun characters from the previous books are here. Don't expect anything deep in terms of development. This is a pulpy book so the characters are mostly archetypes that fit the story which in itself is cliche and full of tropes. Zack is still fun, as is Harv but I do feel that Zakour is running out of new character types to introduce with each new book. The new femme fatales this time around were kinda meh. Not the best book in the series by a long shot in terms of characters, but still very fun.

I like this series a lot, it's fun and pointless and makes me laugh. I wish the ending was a bit more complete but maybe just maybe I can hope for another book in the series.

Onward to the next book!

Amy says

So sad to see this series end. It's become an all time favorite of mine. I'm definitely going to revisit this series for years to come

Joshua Palmatier says

This is the seventh book in this series, and apparently it's going to be the last as well. Which is unfortunate, because I also thought it was the best book in the series. These are basically riffs off of the 50s pulp science fiction and detective fiction novels, hence the ratty covers. They're humorous, filled with action and over-the-top plots, people, and resolutions.

Zach is the last private detective left in the future and he's already saved the world numerous times. So when Kiana--a sapphire-haired siren from the hidden land of Lantis--shows up and wants him to solve the murder of her mother, it seems like a rather low-key case. But Zach doesn't have much choice in taking it on, since Kiana kidnaps him and takes him to Lantis, an island in the middle of the Pacific that's the home to 10,000 women who believe men have destroyed their own world and aren't doing much for Earth either, even though they are occasionally useful. Zach finds numerous suspects for Kiana's mother's murder . . . including Kiana herself. But of course, solving the murder is only part of Zach's problem, because at some point the future of the planet is going to come into question.

I really enjoyed this book. As I said earlier, this was by far the best book in the entire series. The plot starts off rather simple--solve a case of missing baseball memorabilia--and then escalates first to the murder, and then to a threat to the entire world. This book emphasized the detective aspect of the premise for the series, which is likely why I liked it so much. We get to see Zach actually work his way through finding the culprits, interviewing all of the suspects, finding out about the society and the potential killers, all while events begin building around him. It was a slower build to the action, but it worked much better. We also see Zach limited, since the kidnappers take away his gun GUS and most of his contacts outside of Lantis. He has to rely solely on himself and HARV, the computer hard-wired to his brain. This made it seem like Zach was actually in some danger while in Lantis. I thought Zach and HARV had much more character in this book as well. So the plot, the writing, the characters, everything was much more developed and thought out and it all just worked.

There was a rough spot toward the end, when the plot suddenly seems to shift from the resolution of the murder to something else. That shift was a jolt to me as a reader, and appeared to come out of nowhere, but after reading further I realized that it was SUPPOSED to be jolting, because it was part of the plot. Zach felt jolted by the sudden turn, and so the reader should as well. It actually lead into the final moments of the book, which was much more believable as a threat to the world than some of the previous plots. So even that little critique isn't really an issue. In previous books, I mentioned that there were numerous typos that should have been fixed in copy edits and apparently weren't and that these typos were extremely distracting because they were so numerous. There are some typos here, but not nearly as many as in previous books, so that wasn't an issue (much) here either.

Overall, a great book and a great read. Much more focus on the detective/mystery aspects, a much more believable plot that built to a great final threat to the world, and some great characterizations. Based on this book, I'm sad to see that there aren't any additional books planned in this series, although it is good to end on such a high note.

Josh says

Sci-fi pulp satire that takes the cheesy aspects of dime store novels to cringe worthy heights - to the point of making the book almost unreadable. A slow opening and dumbed-down dialogue didn't set high expectations, yet the remaining two thirds of the story were decent enough that I wanted to read until the end. I get that this series is meant to be over the top and a send up of the pulp PI/sci-fi books of yesteryear but I just couldn't get into this enough to truly enjoy it.

Tim says

While not as inventive as the earlier novels in this series, it's still a good read. I was a bit taken aback at the multiple grammatical errors though - this one could have used another proof-read pass but it wasn't so frequent as to be jarring on unreadable. I'm sad this appears to be the last published book in this series. The whole series was a fun read - pulpy sci-fi adventure at its best.

Benjamin Kahn says

Third book I've read in this series. I liked the other two but found this one to be a bit of a dud. The story was slow - this kind of book should move quickly with lots of action and instead it dragged along as we learn all about the world of Lantis. Too many characters from previous books, not enough action and poor plotting. The writing wasn't great - it seemed way too simplistic and basic at times, and the characters were very two-dimensional. The three books I've read in the series - four stars, three stars and now two. This dull excuse for a sci-fi detective novel will mark the end of my commitment to this series.

Joseph Teller says

Yet another tale in the continuing series of Zachary Nixon Johnson, the last freelance private investigator on earth. Once again it starts small, trying to find and recover a stolen collection of priceless collectable baseball cards, and leads eventually to having to save the world.

All the usual cast of characters and over the top tropes are here, but somehow its not as good as the earlier books. Maybe I'm jaded, or maybe the author is just not pushing his boundaries and missing his potential. It's good, just not as great as I wanted.

Violet says

What happened, John Zakour? Here I come, expecting my dose of sci-fi pulp satire, but OMFG, not this shitty kind, thank you very much. Alas, I've finished the damned, nearly unreadable book, so it's all my fault.
