



Black Dawn

Jay Allan

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War is coming, darker and more terrible than any that have come before.

The Hegemony is coming to impose its brutal system of genetic supremacy on the Confederation and the other nations on the Rim, to make its elite Masters the unchallenged rulers of all human habitation in the galaxy.

The White Fleet had been an expression of optimism, a grand expedition to explore the vast reaches of the long-dead empire. Tasked to uncover the secrets of the devastating Cataclysm and to seek and recover the advanced ancient technology that humanity had once possessed, it found something else instead.

A new enemy. A vast domain, one with advanced technology, massive fleets, and a genetically-ordered society and hierarchy it intends to impose on all humanity everywhere. The Hegemony is like nothing Tyler Barron and his comrades have ever encountered...but the veteran admiral must find a way to fight the far superior enemy, to rally the Confederation's forces, and those of the other Rim nations, for what may well be the final war.

Barron understands his task is herculean, but what he doesn't know is that the Confederation, far from being ready to face a new enemy, is embroiled in a widening scandal, one threatening to devolve into outright civil war, as the fleets and troops needed to face the enemy square off against each other.

Barron and his people will do all they can to prevent the Confederation from slipping into oblivion, and to prepare it to face the new enemy that is coming. They have placed themselves in the breach before, saved the Confederation from disaster more than once, but this will be their greatest test, a struggle like none of them have ever experienced.

This time the goal is not victory. It is survival.

Blood on the Stars Series

- 1 - Duel in the Dark
- 2- Call to Arms
- 3 - Ruins of Empire
- 4 - Echoes of Glory
- 5 - Cauldron of Fire
- 6 - Dauntless
- 7 - The White Fleet
- 8 - Black Dawn
- 9 - Invasion (coming)

Black Dawn Details

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From Reader Review Black Dawn for online ebook

Shane says

Jay Allen takes a different twist in this book. He focuses less on battles and more on political intrigue. Unfortunately, he should have stuck with battles. This one misses the mark, it almost misses the whole target.

There are still plenty of 'forlorn hope', 'last ditch' fighter battles so many in fact that they go from extraordinary to commonplace by the end of the book. I'm not saying that Allen treats them as commonplace, just that is how I felt at the end of this book.

Peter says

One of my favorite writers and series. Unfortunately I have the feeling that the whole series are getting recycled with stories from previous books:

1. Again two forces of humans against each other: the good guys are nice, the bad ones are sleezy and backstabbing assassins.
2. The BIG Enemy is again the same: very advanced, robotic(in this case way of thinking) and again no fighters. They lack tactical skill but otherwise are ahead of humanity in all aspects of science and technology.
3. I just don't believe the spy plot in the last two books: somehow one agent manages to collapse the Confederation and no one notices anything? All the senators and generals, admirals meeting with one lady that came out of no where and purchased the second largest Media? The second best super spy in the galaxy, Holsten, does not have a clue what happened even as he and his agency is described as extremely capable just not that ruthless as Sector 9? And not to mention this happened in this series as in Crimson Worlds. Bad guys are very competent spy's and assassins, good guys are helpless in this craft to the level of absurdity in this the last book.
4. Plot just feels used from numerous previous books. To be honest can't wait for new Refugees book, but again they are fighting against the same enemy.
5. Where is power armour? Ships feels more advanced than Crimson Worlds, but infantry is naked.
5. Cliffhanger: The Others. We will see where this goes.

In the end book is great, worth the read, just feels as microwaved dinner left from yesterday.

Rich Costanzo says

Interesting!!

The Blood on the Stars series has been nothing but interesting, to say the least. This last turn of events involving all of the main characters has left me wondering what will ever happen next. And I cannot wait to see what it is

Jim says

When we last left our intrepid crew of the Dauntless, it was making a mad dash back to Confederation territory to announce that a new enemy had been found by the White Fleet. This new enemy, the Hegemony, was located out beyond the “Badlands” farther than any fleet or humans had gone. Contact with the Hegemony proved dangerous for the White Fleet in that this new enemy was more advanced in ships and weapons than the Confederation. The Hegemony’s battleship in particular carried large rail guns with a range far greater than even the primaries of the Confederation ships. Damage from a rail gun shot was usually fatal to the ship on the receiving end.

When the White Fleet first met the Hegemony, they started with friendly intentions. Unfortunately, the Hegemony definitely wasn’t in a friendly mood and responded with combat. The White Fleet was barely holding its own and that was due to the fact that the Hegemony didn’t use combat aircraft in their deployment. So, the White Fleet had a small advantage with their considerable number of combat starfighters and they put them to good use. It was also evident that the Hegemony ships didn’t have any kind of close-in defensive systems to target these starfighters. The only problem for the Confederation fighters was that Hegemony ships were massive and unless hit with numerous plasma torpedoes, they could hardly be harmed.

So, the fighting is furious and the White Fleet is outgunned and clearly doesn’t have the assets of the Hegemony. They decide it’s time to leave and break off the fighting, but they don’t want to lead the Hegemony directly back to Confederation space. After a great deal of arguing and almost mutiny, Admiral Tyler Barron has been convinced that he must go back to Confederation space and warn the Senate and the people of the coming enemy. If he goes back, his reputation is enough to rally not only the Confederation but the Alliance and any other civilizations on the other side of the Badlands. The Hegemony threat is for all humanity not just the Confederation.

Dauntless is the ship carrying Admiral Barron back with her Captain Atara Travis in a coma near death. So Admiral Barron is once again the acting Captain of the CFS Dauntless! He has left the White Fleet with Admiral Sara Eaton and she is taking that fleet farther into unknown space directly away from Confederation space. Hopefully, the Hegemony will follow her fleet while Admiral Barron makes his way back to the Confederation.

Now if that isn’t enough, agents of the Union have infiltrated the Confederation capital and are slowing corrupting Senators of the Confederation Senate. That isn’t such a hard job since most of them seem to already be corrupt. What’s more difficult is corrupting some of the military leadership, but even that appears to be doable. Admiral Barron is going to return to a completely different Confederation than he expects and one that might just be in so much turmoil that any defense against the Hegemony will be impossible.

So the story goes on. While events in the capital city of Troyus City, planet Megara, seem to be pretty idiotic they are working for the Union. What the Union agent gets done by the Senate is pretty much impossible in real life. How one single person can plant so much false evidence is hard to imagine, but she plants evidence on three different people, all well known within the Confederation and two considered heroes of the last Confederation - Union war. Still this makes for a fast moving book with lots of action. Only at the last minute do things seem to straighten out or do they?

Ellen says

I really enjoy these books, so it almost hurts to give only three stars. The reason for the low score is the lack of a good editor. Everything is repeated, at least once. Incredibly annoying. There may be other things as well, but since my english isn't strong I may overlook something.

Oh, one more thing; the abuse of the ellipsis! Makes my eyes bleed. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellipsi...>

If these things had been fixed I would easily give the books five stars.

Mike Crate says

The White Fleet continues to fight a holding action against the forces of the Hegemony and draw them away from Confederated worlds while their Admiral makes a desperate dash to warn of the imminent threat. Meanwhile the political manipulation via corrupt senators at the hands of the Union gains pace forcing major changes in the fleets and intelligence services capabilities.

This latest novel in the series continues the story of the three main powers out on the rim with a good pace and further world building but I am not really invested in the political machinations again because quite frankly the real world makes anything Jay can write seem tame. I have high hopes for the next novel as a lot of threads seem to becoming together. time will tell:)

Michael says

Before you read this one, please note it is the eighth book in a series: if you haven't read the previous books in order, the characters and situations will not make much sense to you.

As a long-time reader of the series, I was looking forward to this one but was disappointed. Without having a spoiler, the first half or so was really slow in setting up the next portion of the series and ended in a cliffhanger that I wonder if the author will be able to bring it back to a logical conclusion or bring the interest level back to where it was previously with this series. I will leave it with I really didn't like how this one took the path it took and it wasn't the author's usual tale. Your impression may vary.

Janetta Bitting says

This work continues the entertaining series . The new foe threatens human existence. Our heroes are consumed with infighting. The cliffhanger leaves me wishing for the next volume.

As above. This is a good series for those who enjoy scripts military action. I wait for the next volume

Aaron Anderson says

I'm only about 1/3rd of the way through this book. I'm a pretty cynical guy, but the sheer amount that this author assumes literally 100 percent of politicians are corrupt is starting to irritate me. We don't even have a TOKEN honest politician in the ENTIRE Confederation, which we are told endlessly is the only government that isn't totalitarian or authoritarian in the known galaxy. I mean a single politician? This author has zero hope for humanity. The only honest people, in general, that exist are the military. Also the two other real characters, the token honest rogue Andi, and the Rich Playboy Spy.

I'm sure the dastardly Black Dawn will barely fail at the last second, but it's already worked too quickly and comprehensively assuming humanity had any hope of surviving itself.

I tend to really enjoy dystopian sci fi, but this isn't even really that. I'm not sure why this annoys me so much, to tell you the truth. Perhaps because this is supposed to be the only non-horrible culture in the human galaxy, and they're so easily taken control of because of the combination of 100 percent politician corruption and utter gullibility of the rest of the population. I love military sci fi, but the premise of nobody BUT the military having any good points is just stupid.

Well I finished. It got a bit better, but not a lot. Definitely my least favorite of the books.

The public swallowing virtually all their war heroes as horrible criminals and traitors seems to believable.

Dan Mibourn says

As usual excellent

when you find an author that has the skill and imagination to write all of the books that he has, and the ability to create believable worlds, systems, and galaxies, ways of life that just jump off of the page, you read everything this author produces and eagerly await any additions to his and your libraries.

Corey says

Sucked down the rabbit hole.

This book was much heavier than the previous ones. So much so that it felt like a different author. Most of the book is inner thoughts and background. History and scene development is great, but not at the expense of the plot and not as triplicate as each character draws the same conclusions.

John says

Continuing the saga of Tyler Barron and Andi LaFarge as they try to protect the Confederacy against the Hegemony, an invader from deep space. Adm. Sara Eaton and the crew of the Repulse deal with a Hegemony exploration fleet, while Barron and LaForge contend with political upheaval and double dealing

in Megara, capital of the Confederacy.

Mark Goletto says

Pretty good read

Well Jay, this branch of the BOTS series should be good for another 5 or 6 books, at least. You are not only a masterful story teller but a fairly shrewd business man as well. Regardless, I'm still waiting for The Wolfs Claw, which you personally told me would be released June 2016. This book says summer of 2018, which it happens to be. Just saying. Sometimes I think authors should stick to one storyline at a time, finish it, then move on to the next. Off the top of my head I count 3 storylines you have going right now and I'm probably forgetting a couple. I'm sure I'm not the only reader who gets aggravated by this. But then again, maybe I am.

David says

Disappointing

The plot in this book is preposterous and full of holes, quite unlike the first 7 books. What comes next are SPOILERS!!!

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There is no way Dauntless could jam planetary signals but not get out a message directly from uber-hero Barron to counteract the lies told about him. Holsten would have triggered his intelligence. Asset countermeasures before leaving. There is no way Dauntless' crew would have missed Pegasus (or vice versa) when they were in the same system for a few days. There is no way SOMEONE on the Dauntless or Pegasus crew wouldn't have heard about the smear campaign back on the capital world BEFORE either ship headed there. (Hell, even the Alliance must have known to get back to Dauntless in time.) After threatening to fire on the main space base on the home world, there is NO WAY the Dauntless command personnel wouldn't have been immediately replaced.

Every new chapter was painful. A shame, because I rated every one of the first 7 books 5 stars. I hope book 8 gets back to the groove.

BobP says

Great concept and lots of action

My greatest compliment to an author is that they have come up with novel concepts ... this series meets that criteria. My only criticism is that there is way too much introspective commentary between cogent conversation. There are some areas where active dialogue is interrupted by PAGES of commentary or

introspection. After skip reading through this one , I would say definitely worth reading... you just have to skip some of the extraneous bits.
