



The Last Hero

Peter Bostrom

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Earth is reeling. American alliances are shaking. And humanity's enemies rally.

For six months after the failed alien attack American Admiral Jack Mattis has been ordered to patrol the periphery to stop more alien incursions.

Even though he knows the attackers weren't alien, but grotesque mutated super-humans from the future. A truth world governments publicly deny.

And now an American scientist witnesses an experimental super-weapon gone awry at a top-secret genetic lab in deep space, while a rebel veterans group storms a Chinese embassy on an American world. Tensions flare, and the American-Chinese peace begins to fray.

Admiral Mattis races to put out the fires, while trying to piece together the mystery of the future human invasion, knowing that failure means not only certain death for him, but for the entire human race.

The clock is ticking.

The Last Hero Details

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From Reader Review The Last Hero for online ebook

Cameron says

Disappointed....

Well I cant say I enjoyed this that much. Where the first in the series was action packed with space battles, this was sadly lacking in that respect and was more filled with an attempt at political intrigue etc. It didnt keep my attention like the first and I had to come back to it time and time again just to finish it. Even then I found myself scanning and skipping. I will probably get the next one just to see if it gets back on track but....

Glenn W. Russell says

Too weird

This is hardly worth the time to review. It became so strange about halfway through that I looked at the epilog, and the finish of the story was an obvious excuse to write more drivel for the unwary reader to purchase. Buy it if you like stuff ten times weirder than the Twilight Zone sci fi TV show. I did not find this very entertaining, but a waste of time.

Jim says

Once again I'm back aboard my old ship, the USS Midway! Only this time, it's a starship! Would have been really cool if that were the case, but back in 1970, the USS Midway was barely an aircraft carrier considering today's modern standards. Anyway, this book is again about the USS Midway, an American starship that is commanded by Admiral Jack Mattis, a war hero of the recently concluded American-Chinese War. Both sides were trying to patch up their relationship and start an era of peace when the co-owned space station, Freedom Station, was attacked and blown up by unknown forces. Of course, some Americans felt that the Chinese were behind the attack, but since Admiral Mattis was there and defended what was left of the station, he knew it wasn't the Chinese.

But, since Admiral Mattis has a grudge against the Chinese for killing his brother, the American High Command and the President want him as far away from any Chinese starships as possible. So, the Midway has been assigned patrol duties in the far fringes of known space. Everything was getting pretty darn boring until they got orders to intervene in a hostage situation at a Chinese Embassy on the planet Sanctuary. It seems as though a group of old war veterans were not happy with the way things were going with the Chinese so they decided to take over the Embassy and get what they believed to be a deep, and dark conspiracy out to the public.

"The Forgotten" as this group of Veterans call themselves, believe that something is going on that the Chinese are behind and if the American government doesn't wake up, more attacks like the one at Freedom Station are going to happen. So, the USS Midway is sent to try and settle this situation down and deal with these veterans which will also require him to deal with the Chinese.

In the meantime, a wimp of a scientist name Steve Bratta gets himself in a situation where he's attacked by what he believes are aliens. He manages to video the entire attack while going to work on the planet Zenith for the MaxGainz Corporation. The "aliens" that attacked him did appear to be somewhat human, but far bigger, stronger, and quicker than any human he has known. The MaxGainz corporate cops that eventually rescued him from the attack confiscated his cell phone which they assumed he used to video the "aliens". They certainly didn't want that video released to the public, but the actual video was on his portable hard drive and Bratta took that with him and fled the planet. He meets up with his ex-wife, a police officer, and she manages to get the video to a pretty famous TV reporter. Soon the entire episode is made public and people are wanting to know where these "aliens" came from.

Back on the USS Midway, Admiral Mattis gets a strange communication from a Chinese starship with the caller identified as Admiral Yim. Admiral Mattis knows this name very well since it's the then same Captain Yim who, in the recent war, destroyed his brother's starship killing everyone aboard, including his brother. Yet, Admiral Yim was also aboard Freedom Station when it was destroyed. So it can't be the same Admiral Yim, or can it?

This book is very good, but the story seems to have some gaps. I'm not certain how somethings tied together to result in the conclusion that came about. I may have missed something in the reading, but I read pretty thoroughly. There also seems to be some pretty casual contact between Admiral Mattis and the President of the United States. I don't think real Admirals contact the President directly very often. Also, we have the problem of an Admiral still commanding the USS Midway when it was previously commanded by a Captain. Unless this is a flag ship for a fleet, a Captain should be commanding. And, the author needs to fix this mismatch with the XO's rank being a Lieutenant Commander while his Chief Engineer is a full Commander. It should be the other way around or both should be full Commanders. I know there is a lot of friendly(?) banter between the XO and the Chief Engineer, but it's still a subordinate rank (Lt. Cmdr.) addressing a superior office (Commander). Besides, if an Admiral is going to command the USS Midway, then his XO should be at least a full Commander. Ok, enough of my military nit-picking.

I'm really looking forward to the next book since this leaves a lot of the story still untold. It can only get better.

saintlouis says

Fabulous follow-up to the first book...

More danger. More mayhem. More intrigue. And just a little romance. Nothing beats great space opera. This is hard military science fiction, with believable characters and solid storylines. I can't wait to read book III.

IAN MURRAY says

It was boaring

Took to long to get to the action. Almost no action in the book until the end. Some of the characters like the son accomplished nothing even although there were whole chapters dedicated to them. The author is not on my following list.

Andrew Baxtrom says

Pick a genre!

Not bad. First book was better. Too much flippant humor in this book. Either write Space Opera or write Comedy. Pick one. And stop taking shots at Canada.

Todd Gutschow says

The first book in the series depended heavily on the military elements of the story. The writing style and character interactions were subpar. Unfortunately, book 2, at least halfway through, has very little believable military action and the characters interactions are way too simplistic to be interesting.

BTW, as an American I love our neighbors to the north, good people. What the hell does the author have against Canada?

((((SPOILER)))

I put the book down at the following part: there is an enemy incursion on Midway, the Admiral and his XO decide that the only way to defeat the incursion is to hop in a fighter and blow out the side of the ship. Seriously? That's the plan??? Is this a book or a plot for bad anime?

Jason says

This follows on straight from the first book, in which a grumpy old Admiral, Jack Mattis, a veteran of the American/Chinese war, takes control of his old warship when they are attacked by a mysterious force that destroys a space station that he was there to commemorate. This is much to the disgust of a Senator called Pitt, whose son serves on the same ship.

They initially think that the ships attacking them are 'aliens', but other things soon come to light.

There are several more battles with this strange new species and their 'alien' ships, and during one of these battles, Pitt's son is killed.

As we move into this story, we find that Senator Pitt is basically set upon killing Mattis for the death of his son, even though it wasn't Jack's fault.

Jack is basically moving about the galaxy, trying to find out what the 'aliens' were, and where they came from, knowing that they are not actually aliens, and that the initial information that they were humans from the future was actually incorrect.

What follows is an intriguing story. Relations between the Chinese and the Americans are still at boiling point, with many remnants of the older American military (calling themselves the 'Unforgotten'), claiming that it was the Chinese that actually destroyed the stations and fired on Jack's ship (the Midway), and other battles.

This leads to some interesting confrontations, and as such, Political and Social issues.

This story covers some very interesting ground about how the media can interfere with Military actions, how Politics and Politicians can cause so many issues when it comes to Military issues, how when there is war,

the two do not mix. There are also some examples though of how the Media can provide useful input, or the odd politician can do the right thing and actually help those on the front line.

Bostrom provides a gritty, intense and in some ways, realistic feel for his story, whether it is the interactions of the bridge crew of the ships, the bitter enmity that turns into grudging respect between old enemies, or the cocky banter that flies about as the fighter pilots fight against ridiculous odds for their lives. There is just such a gritty realism to this story as Mattis desperately fights for his life and that of the others in his command.

I can't wait for part three too come out to find out how this story wraps up, and to see what happens with each of the characters in what is a stunning Sci-Fi series, with some exceptional characters as well as some interesting political issues between the major players.

Mick Bird says

A slow burner, but hang on in there it gets better.

David Gau says

I liked this! It's science fiction and space battles, and it's not bad at all.

Hans P Melius says

Another great read for this series.

Wonderful character interaction and pacing make this book a joy to read. Modi and Lynch are my favorite duo in this series.

Harry L Skinner says

Great

Saga continues to develop. Characters are fleshing out. Twists and turns throughout the story with a real surprise at the end. Looking forward to part 3.

Jesse says

I like the humor relief of the XO and Modi. I like this better than the first book and hope it gets better with the third.

Rob Enderle says

This is a fun series, the only problem I have with it is the lead character is an old experienced admiral and he acts more like someone in their 20s and not in a good way and there are a lot of senior military officers who don't seem to have the maturity their rank would suggest. I'm not saying that doesn't happen but it would seem to me they'd be drummed out of the service pretty quickly for the behavior. Otherwise I've enjoyed this series so far, good plot, good intrigue, and the books pull me through them. So 4 out of 5 stars just because I'd like to fire some of the lead characters.

Robert says

Robert's Review

This was quite an interesting little series. I was not sure if I would like this series when I read the tag line for the first book. The characters kind of grow on you as the book progressed, especially Commanders Modi and Lynch.? Admiral Mattis was a stable commander and Senator Pitt was an awesome villain, I did not like him from the start. GoodRead, I look forward to book 3.
