



Archangel Down

C. Gockel

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In the year 2432, humans think they are alone in the universe. They're wrong.

Commander Noa Sato plans a peaceful leave on her home planet Luddeccea ... but winds up interrogated and imprisoned for her involvement in the Archangel Project. A project she knows nothing about.

Professor James Sinclair wakes in the snow, not remembering the past twenty four hours, or knowing why he is being pursued. The only thing he knows is that he has to find Commander Sato, a woman he's never met.

A military officer from the colonies and a civilian from Old Earth, they couldn't have less in common. But they have to work together to save the lives of millions—and their own.

Every step of the way they are haunted by the final words of a secret transmission:

The archangel is down.

Archangel Down Details

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Author : C. Gockel

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From Reader Review Archangel Down for online ebook

Montzalee Wittmann says

Archangel Down by C.Gockel is an audible book I found confusing in spots, boring in many areas, and needed condensed! I did like some of the science tech it describes. I won't be following this series!

Francene Stanley says

Although confusing at the start, the unique approach to the two main character's thoughts set this novel apart. Noa adapts easily to her changing circumstances, and she holds no grudges, rather, sees the strength in everyone she meets, which makes her a good leader. James keeps the reader guessing with his observations about his own behaviour, which differs from his memories. Together, they assemble a diverse set of followers to achieve their aim.

With focused thoughts, the two main characters impart their knowledge of a possible future. People's nature remains the same, both good and bad, but technology has advanced and the prospective includes an unknown alien race, whose intentions remain hidden.

Matthias Beckmann says

This review is from: Archangel Down: Archangel Project. Book One (Kindle Edition)
I received an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review.

This book...it's definitely an adventure! Sure it's set in the future where any sort of physical/racial difference makes you a "throwback" but who doesn't love an underdog? Noa is one of these throwbacks; and though she definitely mulls it over a bit, she never lets it get in her way. She has bigger fish to fry...Like escaping a slavelabor encampment while half starved and figuring out who this guy is who has almost every skill she needs when needed. For that matter this story is also the Professor trying to figure out how he has those skills too.

This book is worth the read, it's not your typical sci-fi drabble. The author does some amazing work with words on paper (or e-paper). You'll love this, or at least be curious enough to wait for volume 2 ;)

Lindsay says

I went on a long drive with a friend who likes SF and he chose this one for us to listen to. It was ok.

Commander Noa Sato is a pilot in the Galactic Republic Fleet, but while taking leave on her home planet of Luddeccea, finds herself imprisoned and tortured in a hellish POW camp. Luddeccea, always a religious and anti-technology planet seems to have gone full on paranoid and totalitarian. During Noa's escape she encounters Professor James Sinclair who is a complete enigma. He has some of the memories of a history

professor who specializes in the 20th century, but he has the capacities of a killer cyborg and he looks a lot like Noa's dead husband.

Noa and James hatch a plan to get off world and back to the Galactic Republic to let them know about the millions of people that Luddeccea is abusing in prison camps. This involves stealing the Luddeccean's original colony ship, the Ark. (Just in case that's not obvious enough for you, the second book in this series is called Noa's Ark.

First, the good stuff. The world-building here is solid enough and a descent of this sort of society into a totalitarian nightmare makes a lot of sense. Noa and her attitudes towards the planet and her family make sense and are treated with some nuance. The sexbot 6T9 is a rare example of a male sexbot in SF and has an excellent part providing some hilarious comic relief (particularly as performed by the excellent narrator Emily Woo Zeller) as well as some small profound parts.

Unfortunately a lot of that is outweighed by the bad stuff. There is no answer to the central question surrounding the "Archangel" and who or what James actually is. Given that this is so central that it is in the title of the book, some element of that mystery should have come out by the end. Similarly, the bizarre actions of the Luddeccean government isn't explained anywhere. You only get the propaganda that they're spreading even when you do get a little insight into the ruling council at the end. As a reader I feel like there's an embargo on the information needed to make sense of what's going on, and not just because I'm closely following the characters who *don't* know what's going.

Finally, the biggest issue I had with it was editing. Not the copy-editing which was quite competent, no obvious typos or anything, but the actual editing for content, or lack of it in this case. Noa and James are unbelievably repetitive, constantly going over the same emotional beats and internal questions across an array of circumstances, and *just not moving forward* with any of it. The author jams in stuff about 20th century movies that James and Noa end up watching and then endlessly referring to for the rest of the book. All of this should have been cut. It's not cute; it's derivative. It's also unbelievable that centuries later people would be quoting Star Wars at each other.

Despite spending so many hours with these characters with none of the central mysteries even slightly resolved, I feel no urge to continue with the series.

Lady says

Failure Is Not An Option

This series must be read in order. This is the first book. I can't wait to find out what is next for Noa&James in the next book!!!

Noa came home to visit her baby brother Kenji... Unfortunately she ended up in a concentration/forced work camp instead of spending quality time with her favorite sibling. She thought life was at its all time low when her husband was murdered. Too bad she was wrong. Knowing she must escape and rescue her brother is the only thing that keeps her going. Why has her homework devolved into Nazi like persecution and insane antitechnology religious zealotry? Why are they railing about heretics and demons as well as aliens? What caused this horrific mix of violence and genocide?

James woke on the planet with no clear idea of how he got there or what transpired before that. All he knows is he has a driving urge to find Noa and save her from those who would harm her. His past is fuzzy and unreal. Why does he feel an overwhelming desire to gain her trust? Why is he always seeing black whenever it seems like something will end her? Will they escape with their lives and sanity intact? Will they be able to find a way off planet to expose the atrocities of the camps?

***This series is suitable for adult readers who enjoy a little first contact in their futuristic dystopian sci-fi fantasy action adventures with a dash of romance and a heavy serving of horror :)

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review

Beth says

Now this is a totally different read for me personally, Science-fiction, I do not usually go for Alien movie or whatnot .. well I saw ET, but I was never into the Alien movies, they kind of creeped me out or scared me as kid. That being said, I really enjoyed the read. Solid plot, No, NO, no cliffhanger, A Trilogy. I enjoyed it so much. I will be looking more into C. Gockel very very soon. I love finding new author and this is a totally different not my norm genre. Cool book cover as well. LOVE IT!! (;

Tony Hisgett says

I really couldn't get into this book. I took too long to work out what was going on and even though I tried hard to like Noa and James I found I didn't really care what happened to them. It didn't help that I found the whole style of the writing a bit confusing, sentences half finished, half the dialogue an internal debate, meandering random thoughts that just pop up for no reason and the over use of flashbacks. The two main characters are both damaged in various ways, the situation is chaotic and the universe created by the author isn't established soon enough to make sense of the storyline.

Michelle Fritz says

Very entertaining and certainly unlike anything that I had read before! Ms. Gockel is a pro and getting the humor in a situation. Her characters are well thought out and very authentic. I literally laughed out load reading this <3

Eric says

I tripped over this book on Bookbub.com. A freebie. Imagine naming a sexbot, 6T9? Adventure Sci Fi with a history professor as one of the main characters. Insights to the past. Entertaining enough, I bought the next two in the series and have started #2, Noa's Ark.

Light, mindless entertainment.

Lindsay says

I received an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review.

Archangel Down is a suspenseful science fiction novel! In her previous series, C. Gockel deftly wove Norse mythology into present day - in Archangel Down she weaves our present into a Sci-Fi future.

In the 25th century, humans are routinely augmented and are connected over the Ethernet through ports in their brains. But on the conservative planet Luddeccea, a mysterious presence that takes control of the Time Gate leads them to revert to earlier technology and an authoritarian government. Fleet officer Noa and history professor James must find a way to get help - before the genocides of the 20th century repeat themselves.

Gockel's world building is masterful and humorous touches ensure that this suspenseful read is enjoyable from beginning to end.

Dianne says

The year is 2432, the universe is in upheaval and humans are about to discover they are not alone and the universe is about to discover how brutal humanity can be.

ARCHANGEL DOWN by C. Gockel is a science fiction lover's dream (or worst nightmare), because humanity can still be inhumane.

She has given her all as a commander, but Noa finds herself a prisoner under brutal integration for the mysterious Archangel Project, something she knows nothing about. In a desperate attempt to flee her captors, at that very moment she is about to be overtaken, she is rescued by an Earth man who claims to be a history professor, but there is something "other" about James Sinclair, something "more" in his strength, his abilities and in the fact that he has no true memory of his life. He just knew he had to rescue HER...

Together these two will do the seemingly impossible-survive, because not to could destroy the universe.

C. Gockel's storytelling is brilliant! Filled with moments of nail-biting danger, humor, romance, intrigue and the magic of the unknown future, science fiction that is limited only by one's imagination. Meet a sexbot and its quirky owner, feel James' confusion at being so positive about what he remembers, yet not sure why he can do what he does. Respect the commitment to her training, as Noa relies on logic and years of leadership when the chips are down.

Will they escape the hell they have found themselves in? Science fiction, dystopia and a firm foundation to what looks to be an incredible series!

Series: Archangel Project - Book 1

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XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

? January 16, 2019: FREE today!

Mike says

couldn't finish, yawn

Caitlin says

Archangel Down combines elements of both space opera and dystopia to tell the story of a colony world that imposes totalitarian rule in the wake of a mysterious alien invasion.

We meet Commander Noa Sato in a concentration camp where she's being grilled about her involvement in the Archangel Project. Problem is, she's never heard of the Archangel Project. She escapes and is found by James Sinclair, an amnesiac Earth history professor whose augments give him superhuman strength and speed, and possibly an inhuman lack of emotion about killing the people after him and Noa.

The central mystery of the book revolves around the alien invasion that the local government has apparently become tyrannical in response to. There are rumors aliens have taken over the planet's wormhole gate and are taking over humans through their augments, with a strong implication James may be under alien influence.

There's some interesting world building and characterization in this book: people connect to the internet as well as each other via their augments, and linked people have insight into each other's emotions and can communicate thoughts and images. The "time gates" that allow FTL travel and antigravity are some neat handwavium. And I especially liked the duo of Eliza and 6T9, her sex bot and robot butler. I thought Gockel invites discussion through these characters of what assistive technology and companion robots for the elderly might look like in the future.

However, there were some prose-related quirks that bothered me. For instance, facial expressions could have used more variety—Noa's jaw is often clenching or hardened in resolve, which got repetitive. A few clichés also appear in the book. The novel also opens with dialogue, which is generally a no no because it forces readers to work harder to mentally set the scene.

Finally, I wanted to make a note about Noa's brother Kenji since I haven't seen a review address this. I'm positive Kenji is autistic. He has difficulty with eye contact, is very focused on technical matters and less on relationships, and has trouble interpreting and showing emotions. Yet Gockel doesn't make it explicit that he is autistic, and I wish she had because it would be interesting to read an autistic character in SF, especially one whose POV we get to inhabit.

Overall, Archangel Down was a decent series starter for me. The sequel Noa's Ark promises more intrigue and danger in the Luddicea system, so I will probably check it out.

Kathy says

Archangel Down is a good story with interesting characters that has too much clutter. C. Gockel writes well but the book bogs down in a few places, not enough to make me stop reading, but enough to notice.

Overall the story is right between 3 and 4 stars, actually quite good but could use some work. The premise is great and some characters are very well done. Please see my full review here:
<http://www.morebooksthanime.com/arch...>
