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After a suspicious explosion on board the galactic space cruiser USS Michaelson costs an officer his life, the ship's legal counsel, Lieutenant Sinclair, risks everything to expose a cover-up--and prosecute the son of a powerful vice-admiral.

Burden of Proof Details

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From Reader Review Burden of Proof for online ebook

Brandon Cord Bradshaw says

better than the first book, tighter

*****Dave Hill says**

The second "JAG in Space" story picks up where the last left off -- a young ensign (now Lt JG) slowly advancing in his career, which includes being the collateral legal officer on his US Space Navy cruiser.

What's remarkable about this series is how *unadventurous* it all is. Yes, there's danger and drama, but very mundane. The "bad eggs" are easy to spot (if not to deal with), and of all the conflicts that one expects, 9 out of 10 of them simply don't materialize. It's very work-a-day and non-operatic, while still being a quite enjoyable read.

Mary Catelli says

The second Paul Sinclair book. Like the first, a work of military SF that revolves about a courtroom drama.

Life in the United States Navy in Space. Paul Sinclair and the other officers and sailors carrying out their duties -- particularly the other junior officers, whom he associates the most with. Including a time when Greenspace interferes while they try to test a weapon. The farewell dinner to Carl Meadows and his replacement Scott Silver. Meeting a captain who's his girlfriend's father. Another attempt to test. . . and then they arrive back at station.

While they are there, an explosion brings about a nasty fire. Paul is involved in fighting it. And comes off badly in the investigation, which is conducted by his girlfriend's father. None of his friends think it just, but there's nothing anyone can do.

But when it's over with, and he's living with the injustice, Sharpe, the man-at-arms, comes to him in his role of legal officer to ask him to bring a man on board to double check the results, because when he looked at the report, he discovered that the statements it listed did not include the one that he had submitted.

Which leads into more discoveries. A discussion of hunting and how quiet you have to keep. A supply officer who handed over a part to a guy with a sob story. Paul's being caught between two captains. One of Paul's friends being shut out of his cabin for a time. A senior supply officer advising Paul to consult with a junior one -- he'd be better at it, but the junior one needs to pick up the experience. Unopened mail and computer games. And a dramatic trial.

Jeffrey Grant says

It's always nice when a series with a shaky start improves rather than collapsing under the weight of previous issues.

This book continues to follow Paul Sinclair on the *Michaelson*, in a "U.S. Navy in Space" setting. This time he's introduced to a slacking officer who he has to deal with in the middle of a crisis. The crisis results in an investigation of serious wrongdoing, which Paul initially carries out. He subsequently takes a central role in the ensuing court martial.

Hemry either figured out that the minutiae of Navy life wasn't everyone's forte, or he figured that he'd covered the details well enough in the previous volume that he didn't have to rehash them here. Either way, there is much less naval jargon and procedure and a lot more stuff happening. Navy procedure is still rampant, but most of it is only discussed when people are doing things that need context. As a result the book's pacing is a lot better.

Another thing that helps with that is that more things actually happen. The disaster, investigation, and court-martial take up much more space than the incidents in the previous book did, and the book is better for it. The investigation part of it was a well-done detective story, and there is a lot more byplay and legal maneuvering in the court martial. Some might not consider that interesting, but the byline of the series is "JAG in space", so I'm not sure what those people were expecting.

The major failing here is that the characters are a bit weak; there isn't a great deal of complexity to many of them, and the ones that are slightly more complex don't get much time in the story. The romance sub-plot is still present, but it is still predictable and somewhat clumsy, to my mind. The girl's father is also introduced, and that encounter also follows patterns so predictable as to be clichéd.

Despite that, the story is more like a cop show. While it's nice if the side plots are engaging, much can be forgiven if the main mystery is well done, and that's certainly the case here.

Steven Allen says

I am so behind on my reviews. I will catch up on my reviews soon.

Andreas says

The second installment in the JAG is Space series is structured much like its predecessor, *A Just Determination*. Paul Sinclair is now a Lieutenant JG, still serving on the U.S.S. *Michaelson*. A deadly accident in forward engineering isn't investigated as it should. An officer attempts to cover up the truth. Sinclair is in the middle. To mix things up, his girlfriend Jen's father is a Navy Captain. Major trial in the second half.

This story is a bit weaker than *A Just Determination*, but still quite good. If you liked the first book, you will undoubtedly like this one. Hemry does well in advancing Paul and Jen's stories and the changes in their characters.

Note: Hemry also writes under the pseudonym Jack Campbell.

<http://www.books.rosboch.net/?p=843>

BobA707 says

Summary: Really well written and thoughtful book, the plot is weak and the action thin, but the premise is excellent. Just as good as the first book in the series

Plotline: Very simple plot but superbly presented

Premise: Totally believable, but not very far in the future

Writing: Simple, very descriptive, the detail is breathtaking

Ending: Predictable but satisfactory

Pace: Never a dull moment!

Mothwing says

Very enjoyable account of another case that a legal officer has to deal with. Everybody is being very professional and precise, collars starched and buttons gleaming and seemingly always at attention. Things seem very tidy.

For me, it is often very difficult to tell which customs are space navy and which are already present in the real US armed forces. My basically pacifist family has little to do with the our own armed forces. My elderly relatives were all drafted to serve in the Wehrmacht and later the Volkssturm, my father and childhood sweetheart were drafted for nine month, my brother for one, but the military does not have a strong presence in my life. Especially when it comes to the highly standardised language and sheer amount of flag-saluting.

Janell says

Second in a series, this is an excellent military and courtroom drama and the author is obviously well versed with both. This is the Navy in space although I would not call this a sci-fi since they don't deal with anything of an "alien" nature. Although the story itself could stand alone, most of the characters were introduced in the first book as well as their relationships to each other. Because this story was definitely more compelling, I actually liked this book even more than the first one.

Chris says

Awesome space disaster rescue and courtroom drama! :DDD Horribly awkward space romance! DDD: (Bonus for all female characters, including the love interest, being fully rounded individuals, though. I'll put

up with some awkwardness for that.)

Jeff Yoak says

I'm still enjoying the characters in this series, but finding the plot rather limited. I keep thinking that I'll stop after this book and deciding to continue.

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

With this second in the series, we establish the pattern of interaction/action in the first half of the book and then trial in the second. Author Campbell never gives away so much information that there is a foregone conclusion nor are there any tv-drama hysterics or surprises. This serious is about an everyman standing up for ideals (a recurring theme in Campbell's books) despite the costs.

Story: As Paul Sinclair works his way up the military ladder, engages with a new Captain for the Michaelson, and gets to know fellow officer Shen better, life settles down on the ship. Until an explosion rocks the engineering deck and costs a good man his life. When the evidence is collected, it points to an officer better at impressing superiors than performing his job. A young man whose father is an admiral. As Sinclair watches on the sidelines, he'll find he may be more involved in the case than hoped - or feared.

The story begun in the first book builds quite nicely in this second novel. The characters are all interesting and fascinating - from the antagonists to the friends that Paul meets on the ship. As crew continues to rotate around him, he'll deepen some relationships but also be forced to say goodbye to others.

The court scenes are surprisingly engaging and it helps that even Paul himself is not sure that the fellow officer is guilty. I found that once I started the book, I didn't want to stop and stayed up quite late with it. The story really was that good.

I listened to the Audible version and the narrator did an excellent job.

Angie Boyter says

Very like the first, an enjoyable read. I really love how he extrapolates current-day Navy culture and tradition to the future (the year 2100. I had wondered how far future we were, and he mentions a document with a date once!) Warning, though: the first half of the book is about character and atmosphere, and the legal problem, which is the main plot thread, does not pick up until halfway through.

Stacey Douglas says

If you like space opera, the Honor Harrington type, you may well enjoy this series involving a young officer who finds himself in the middle of difficult situations that end up in military court. Author Henry also writes as Jack Campbell in another series, The Lost Fleet, with a central character like Bujold's Vorkosigan, Weber's Harrington and Feintuch's Beaufort. I liked this story and look forward to reading the others in this series.

William Scarborough says

Another good Paul Sinclair Story

Finished the second "Paul Sinclair" story and liked it immensely. I will say Mr. Hemry's court room descriptions are a bit of a slog. I spent 20 years in the military with 10 of them as a senior NCO [The Air Force's version of a Chief Petty Officer) I was involved in 2 Courts Martial (look it up civies that's the correct way to say it) as Master at Arms and find the procedures described here accurate to my experience. Maybe that's why I find some of the detail a bit tedious. But to the rest of the book - OUTSTANDING! Good character development, good sense of literary tension and he always comes through with a satisfying ending. Readers can buy the book knowing they'll get their money's worth.
