



Catalyst

Anna Carven

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Stranded on a remote planet with no hope of escape.

Stuck in the unforgiving wilderness, where monsters hunt in the skies above.

No signal, no spacecraft, no translator.

Esania thought she and her people were escaping to the sanctuary planet of Torandor. Instead, she's ended up on a wild, uncharted nightmare called Khira, where the violet-skinned savages who guard them are just as poisonous as the deadly flora and fauna.

And the pale-winged demon who's just dropped from above might be the most dangerous of them all.

Catalyst is a full-length science-fiction romance novel (86,000 words), and the first book in a new series. It contains violence, swearing, explicit sex scenes, and aliens! It's definitely recommended for readers aged 18 and over.

Catalyst Details

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Author : Anna Carven

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From Reader Review Catalyst for online ebook

Jeeza says

Sorry, but I need to deduct one star for sloppy editing. A lot is being repeated, some grammatical errors and there is also a few sentences which seemed to be in the wrong place. One or two more beta readers could have done the trick on this one.

On we go to the review: The main couple is put together by combining the enigmatic and may I say Vulcan like S (full name Esania) from Book 1 and Imril, our own personal silver dragon dream come to life. Imril wakes from a long hibernation, after being nearly destroyed by a virus, that killed all the rest of his species. He kidnaps Esania to use her lifeforce as a battery for his own powers. But in the process he's getting addicted to this little alien.

Imril is not the best character, as he clearly has a very chequered past and seems to be very keen on his servants being absolute submissive. This storyline could have been more expanded, with Imril learning the error of his way, but the novel basically gets flooded with all the other mini story lines included in this book. It also has elements of chemical warfare, genocide, torture and massive family problems. Father experimenting on kids, brother mutilating each other and so on. I'm sure you have one question: how does the author manages to compress so many problems into one book without making it an absolute nightmare to read? By just casual brushing along all these problems. Instead she focuses on the relationship and the feelings...oh yes, all the mushy feelings between aliens and humans. After all we all are choosing to read these books to make us feel good and not because we want to fucking cry our eyes out.

This book has less action elements and is also less Sci-Fi then the first one. Technology has nearly no part in it and there are no zombie like creatures at all. It feels very much like a fantasy novel instead. I'm not ashamed to say I normally really like Ms Carven's stories, even with all the brushing past the serious stuff, but especially in this series the author is cramming a lot of information into the books from the get go. My advice... maybe read over the storyline of 'Destroyer' again to get a little recap on what happened on the big, bad ship in the sky, as it's getting referenced quite frequently in this second book.

Elisa Doll says

DNF

I read this thru KU. I bailed at 18%. I should've read the summary before starting this but enjoyed the 1st book so much that I jumped straight into this and immediately regretted it. I ABHOR romance books about slavery and/or abuse. The H in this is a slaver who thinks himself somehow better than other slaves, but he is still a slave so.... Just couldn't read it. So disappointed that the author went there. There are some bad behaviors/traits that just cannot be overcome. Plus, there were editing issues in the small portion that I read. Just no, and no.

2 stars. And only because I normally like this author, otherwise I'd wish I could give it a big fat ZERO.

Space Cowgirl says

Changes, Learn to Accept the Strange?

A Flying Demon? of Khira?

Imril?, the immortal lightbringer, wakes up from a deep sleep where his body self repaired, but how many years has he been out?

He is starving and flies away on his leathery wings to find food. He eats the essence, or Vir, of living things. He spots a group of beings and one of them has a stronger Vir than the others. Swooping down, he grabs it, and takes some, strengthening himself. He realizes it's a female human, and instead of sucking her dry, he figures out he can take a little Vir at a time and always have her for himself.

Esania? is is the human woman stuck on Khira ?, a savage planet in another dimension, and Imril? is a one of a kind, nearly immortal creature that she eventually falls in love? with.

This is the second book in the series and is mostly an Adult love? story. Its a story of trust and transition, between both Imril? and Esania?. Both of them have to change to coexist with each other.

It's best to read book one first, to find out how Imril? came to be and find out how the human women got to the hidden planet.

Kristina says

Ok like just barely a romance, but still a pretty interesting sci fi fantasy situation, I have to say. This didn't suck!

Celestine says

I read Catalyst 13 months after book one, and it was too long. In Destroyer, Anna Carven creates a new, complex world with multiple alien races interacting on one horrific, massive, sentient space ship. It was convoluted at the time to read. More than a year later, I had forgotten important details and diving into book two without a refresher was difficult. I was confused, felt lost with the characters and didn't really remember a lot about the differences in the alien groups. Unfortunately, I felt lost for so long that it began to annoy me, and probably colored my perception of the rest of the book. There is a talent to bringing readers of series up to date. It is a fine line to tread between redundancy and reintroduction of key points. This book just didn't get it right. If you read other reviews, I don't think I was alone. If I had read Destroyer immediately before Catalyst, this would probably be a different review. Should the burden have been on me to basically re-read book one? I don't think so. And this kills me, because I LOVED Anna Carven's Dark Planet Warriors books (nearly all 5 stars).

I also had some difficulty connecting with Imril and Esania as a couple. Individually, I thought they were well drafted. The "Mama Bear" personality quirk with Esania was great to experience, and I thought she seemed like a fresh, original character. Imril was a despot who seemed, somehow, to acquire a conscience. The results of his past intolerance comes back to haunt him, and that was a fantastic twist. I was left still somewhat confused about the Twins' powers, but maybe that will resolve in Mael's book. Which, despite my

dissatisfaction stated earlier, I very much plan to read. And hopefully I still remember the threads from Catalyst.

Ri The Ravenous Reader says

Look, I love Anna Carven.

I adore her Dark Planet Warriors series and still re-read it. It's right up there in my favourite series of all time. I don't follow Authors on FB but I follow her, that says a lot.

This new series started off well. I liked 'Destroyer' so you can imagine I was BUSTING at the seams to read this while on vacation.

Unfortunately, that excited feeling lasted for only about an hour after I got this book in my hot little hands. Too much internal dialogue, we spent hours inside the H and h's head, repeating every little detail. I'm not into slavery either so that was another thing that put me off. I didn't feel the connection between them at all. It was odd.

I will buy the next one in the series and try again as maybe this book was a case of me not everyone else.
DNF 40%

ValerieC says

Very, very redundant. The same things over and over. This book could have been at least 25% shorter. I liked the story, though. I will read the next one.

Rosebud says

Esania is making the best of situations she can on Khira. Previously responsible for the Earther females, Esania continues to care for her charges as best she can though the Vradhu are making it difficult.

Imril, Lightbringer twin, Overlord of Khira, awakens weak and confused to find his world has changed in the three hundred full revs he has been asleep. Desperately needing *vir*, Imril takes flight searching for *vir*, finding it in the body of an alien female. Abducting the female, Imril next locates a domicile that can serve as his base until he can regain his strength and learn all that has changed.

Esania finds herself a prisoner, unable to communicate with her captor, in a gilded prison though what he wants of her is a mystery. Their interactions leave her drained mentally and physically though he doesn't do more than touch her skin.

Esania needs to escape and get back to her Earth charges before the females are put at risk by the Vradhu even though Calixa found happiness with her two aliens.

* * *

Futuristic epic fantasy tale that continues the "Hidden Planet" series. Not having read Destroyer, I do feel that I lost a lot of this story's content thus feeling it is not a stand alone read.

Chalk filled with action, adventure, complex & multi faceted content, readers can look forward to an engaging tale of characters who are working to right the wrongs of their world while falling in love with alien women. Women who will stand at their side through thick and thin building a new future.

Next installment will feature Imril's twin Mael and Sara. The build up to their story is one I'm looking forward to but in the meantime I plan to read "Destroyer" so I can fully appreciate the overall series.

Pet says

I love all of AC work, in fact it's very seldom I give her less than 5 stars, she's a master at creating the kind of über Alpha that just skirts the line of being overbearing, but it's her h's that pull that overbearing into protectors making them wonderfully exciting strong males with devotion to their ladies that hits right in the good feels.

Imril Never quite makes that leap, he's not my favorite of the H's and I'm not overly fond of his Overlord ways. It might have something to do with the whole him sitting on his throne and summoning Esania like a servant at the end, that really got up my nose.

He might have fallen for her but he never showed her the respect I've come to expect from an AC H. Still a great story though, the world and characters are fantastic and I can't wait for Sara's story.

Sunseeker?? says

Although there were a handful of grammatical errors, this was a fantastic read for a sci fi romance. I can't wait for Mael and Sara's story.

Gwamsa says

Imril and Esania

If you want an offworld adventure, a complete immersion into another reality, read this series. This is a smart, all encompassing and unique world build. The intricacies are such that your intellect is always engaged. Crash landing on the planet Khira, it is poisonous in a thousand different ways to the humans. Esania, 99% human, happens to be the one being that is right for the demigod Imril. He is deadly for her. This is a love story with some real danger attached. Anna Carvan is absolutely one of my favorite authors.

phoebess says

Catalyst was one of those stories which don't allow you to breathe, eat or drink while reading it.

I was so intrigued by Imril and his past (and future), I was devouring every word Anna Carven had written like it was my last meal on Earth. I can't wait to see what's in store for Mael. And how the world will fare

after the return of these two Drakhins.

There was just one little black spot on my enjoyment of this book. It should have been three chapters shorter. It should have ended on a high note (after the fight with Nykithus/Acheros), not with Imril and Esania basically waiting to finally have sex. How it ended was a big let-down for me but, luckily, it didn't ruin the book for me at all.

Kristen says

A real drag compared to her other series

I really hate to give a bad review for this author since she wrote one of my favorite series (Dark Planet Warriors, which is amazing!), but gah this book was a drag. The potential was there and the characters were better than the first book in this series. Book one of the series was soooo boring. It had to be skimmed over. Imril and Mael were much better make characters and their powers / back story much more enjoyable. The female lead, Esania wasn't terrible and luckily didn't fight Imril about the bond constantly. She was incredibly annoying trying to keep Mael away from Sara when it was obvious he wouldn't hurt her and Sara wanted to be near him. There was a lot of senseless blah blah blah paragraphs and not enough dialogue. They didn't even have sex until at 98% of the kindle edition of the book!!! That was uncharacteristic of an AC book. And when that scene finally happened, it fell flat.

I cannot recommend this series, but do recommend you try her other series, DPW and DSM.

Ariel Marie says

Couldn't put down!

I don't know where to start but to say this is one of my favorite books by Anna. I couldn't put it down. I've been waiting on her next release and I wasn't disappointed. Must read!

Kelly says

After the events in book 1, Esania and her, err, handmaidens (I guess? People? The one's she's looking after?) are stranded on Khira with the rest of the mercenaries and a group of Vradhu after the crazed living ship they were on...MAN, book one was a wild ride, wasn't it? Totally wild.

Anywho. Esania and the rest are now planetside and things aren't going great. On the plus side, they're all alive. But they're stranded far from home without any of the creature comforts they've come to depend on and there are a sadistic bunch of blue-skinned aliens who want to harvest the humans for their life force. Which, let's face it, probably sucks.

Imril doesn't much help their plight when he chances on them. Weakened after a several-hundred years hibernation, he's mostly instinct and hunger. So when he snatches Esania for the life force she gives off, things seem to go from bad to worse for her.

Except that's not exactly true. Imril might be a bit arrogant and a lot unaware of what's been going on while

he was in his healing sleep, but he realizes soon enough that Esania is something special. Facing his failings to his people and making peace (of a sort) with his (formerly insane) twin brother mellows him. Sort of.

Bottom line, I like these fierce aliens. I like their human(-ish) counterparts. I'm digging this world and all the craziness that comes with it.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal
