



A Show of Force

Ryk Brown

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Episode 13 The liberation old worlds... The addition of new allies... The fall of a regime... The death of a trusted friend... The Aurora begins clearing a 20 light year sphere of safety around Earth, taking out Jung forces as they liberate the core systems. However, Captain Scott and the Alliance quickly discover that not every world wants to be liberated, and the Jung have a few surprises of their own. "A Show of Force" is a 137,000 word novel, and is the 13th episode in The Frontiers Saga.

Episode 14, "The Weak and the Innocent" is coming soon!

A Show of Force Details

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From Reader Review A Show of Force for online ebook

Kyle says

another action packed sequel in this series. I don't really know how to review this because if you are 13 books in you know what your going to get. overall an amazing sci series.

Peter Sidell says

The suspense goes on

More victories, more challenges. The battle goes on. Mixture of hope and despare. Heroism and new challenges. Battles a little too detailed.

Per Gunnar says

Chapter 13 in The Frontiers Saga is as enjoyable to read as most of the books in the series have been. It is great entertainment and I definitely liked this book except for a few things that I get to.

The book starts off right away with the Alliance giving the Jungs a good beating. There is plenty of action in this book and, for once, the Aurora is not totally shot to pieces. At least not right away. A decent amount of the action is down on the ground, either in the form of the Ghatazhak liberating former Jung worlds or Jessica on undercover and infiltration work on the next Jung world to liberate.

As the book blurb states some inhabitants are not all that eager to be liberated but, to be honest, that does not really play an enormous role in the book. Most of the book is more straightforward action and strategic decisions in order to achieve the 20 light year sphere. The action is good, very good, and the writing and characters are as enjoyable as always.

Naturally not everything goes exactly as planned and, as the book blurb also states, the Jung have a few surprises as well. Not all of them being of the kind that involves lobbying ships, missiles and blunts instruments at each other. I found this “other” surprise to be an interesting twist and it ties together some of the events on Earth with Jessica’s experiences when working undercover as well.

However, there are these “few things” that I mentioned. A minor gripe is that they are going through Ghatazhaks at frightening speeds, sometimes due to reasons I found not to be very valid. It is as if the shooting up of the Aurora now have been replaced by killing off Ghatazhaks. A less minor gripe is that Jessica, in my opinion, during her undercover work is behaving somewhat amateurish in that she is opening her mouth rather quickly and spilling details about jump drives and god knows what to people who’s integrity have hardly been satisfactory proven. Actually she is not the only one behaving amateurishly from time to time.

Then we have the situation in the Pentaurus cluster where the “nobles” are stirring up things and everything, quite frankly, goes to hell. This I could have been without. It was a totally unnecessary element of the story.

It also created quite some sadness and losses and I felt that this book did not at all end on a happy note due primarily to this and, since I am a sucker for happy endings, I really did not like this.

If not for these issues, especially the latter, this book would have earned another star for me. It is still a good book though and, as is often the case, these gripes are due to the personal opinions and tastes of myself. I am indeed looking forward to the next instalment in the series.

Christopher Haskins says

And it continues...

Excellent follow-up to the last book. As usual, the story keeps going, leaving me waiting for the next in the series. I really had trouble putting this novel down....

Jean says

This is one of my favorite space operas. It has been great fun watching Ryk Brown evolve into an excellent author. This is the 13th book in the series. The series should be read in order otherwise the reader is lost. This author does not go back and fill in details from prior books.

In the last book, Earth has been cleared of the Jung. The Arora and Celestia are all shot up and the asteroid repair station is also damaged. In this book the repairs are in process and Nathan sets out to clear the Jung from neighboring star systems. He hopes to save them from destruction by the Jung and convert them into allies for the Alliance. Jessica once again goes undercover on a strange planet. The Arora faces off two Jung battleships alone. Unfortunately, Brown kills off one of the key characters. Oh, how could he! The book ends in a cliff hanger.

The book is well written. In fact, Brown's writing improves with each book. The plot twists and turns. The action is non-stop and the pace is fast. Brown continues to build his characters and adds new ones. I cannot wait for the next book in the series.

Jeffrey Kafer does an excellent job narrating the book. Kafer has narrated all the books in the series, which I think is great to have only one narrator for the series.

Louise Pass says

The sweeping saga continues

More explosions, more technology, more battles, spec-ops skuldugery, saving the alliance is very hard work. You should read this series!

Shelly Singhal says

Can't. Stop. Reading. These.

I think I've run out of nice things to say about this series other than why the heck hasn't someone made a movie about this yet?

David Syzdek says

A gripping adventure

I cannot stop reading this space navy book series. It's an amazing and thrilling ride that's building and building with great action and relatable characters.

Michael says

Before you start this book, please realize it is #13 in a series: if you haven't read the other books in the series in order, this one will make no sense to you.

This installment is a major pickup in the action and pace of the last novel, which is significant as episode #12 really stepped it up a few notches. The Alliance takes the fight directly to the Jung, Casimar is fighting a civil war, and you have non-stop action from the first chapter to the end. Similar to other episodes in this series, I also appreciate how the advances in future technologies aren't described over your head, and you can get your arms around it and understand it.

As usual, and without having a spoiler, there was yet another cliffhanger ending but it was something I didn't see coming and I think this is one of the better plotted and written episodes of the series. Unlike other space operas that may have worn out their welcome after a few books, I'm ready for the next episode.

John (JP) says

This was another great chapter in an epic series. The Alliance gets cocky in its plans for a war against the Jung and almost gets its head chopped off. The Ghatazhak encounter staggering losses and are forced to retreat. The nobles stage a coup further complicating the Alliance plans for a 20 light year zone of protection for Earth. Brown has the natives of the liberated planets question the Alliance's rationale for their actions. All these factors plus some major character developments make this chapter in the epic story worth reading. Plus the Jung are given a voice finally.

David says

The Alliance continues to clear an area around the earth. Yet, things don't always go as planned, and even the Gottajack can have a really bad day. Victory can be transformed in an instant, into disaster.

Jeff Frank says

It continues

Another good read with all action. Some deeper character development would develop the story even more. I would also enjoy a pov from the enemy.

Mike Nemeth says

The only real problem with "A Show of Force," the 13th in the Frontiers Saga series, is that I've completed reading it. Damn. And despite the fact that in the back author Ryk Brown promised another episode soon, I'm still bumming. The Ghatazak's Telles has got to be one of the highlights. Prince Casmir plays a significant role, and the Jung are back on the offensive after taking a serious beating. The Alliance has growing pains, the jump drive is susceptible to theft and our heroes learn that the Jung are far more sophisticated an enemy than they anticipated. They have spying down to a science, to a nanite level. The NSA in comparison are a bunch of hacks. Brown's just toying with my mind. He makes it tough to be a fan as he beats the bejesus out of his characters. This is not some episodic series in which he ties of lose ends easily. Brown likes to make his fans sweat with his characters. Saving the universe for freedom is not a simple thing. It takes sacrifice. I get that. But damn, I need another fix. What the heck happened? I just finished the book today. Does it show?

Ed Tinkertoy says

First let me say that I waited a good while to get to this book after it was released. And I decided to wait until the other books in the series were published before I got back to it. In the meantime I read several other books and when I finally got back to this one I was kinda turned off because the series had run so long, and even still was not yet finished. I was also a bit turned off by the continual space wars after reading books that did not have that. But I still loved the book once I got into it.

One problem I had with the book after a long layoff from the series was remembering who was who, what ship or location they were, and what the last action was that I read. One of the drawbacks of reading on a Kindle is you cannot just flip back through pages and books to see what happened before and/or to refresh your memory, especially with 12 previous books.

In this book things do not go well for the Alliance. In my opinion some of the reasons that things go wrong or not well were more for the convenience of the story line than other things. I also saw a couple points of

inconsistency. For example, if I remember correctly in previous battles it was stated that the Jung could not launch fighters from a battleship while they had their shields up. But in the big battle to destroy a Jung battleship it was continually launching fighters that were going to the fight on the planet Kohoran. I thought that Tug, or Cashmir, was too smart in past books to allow his palace to be stormed and also to allow other Nobles to steal Ghatazhak pods that were eventually used against him. I also thought that when the Jung captured a jump shuttle and the crew was unable to arm the self destruct because they had a Jung spy on board who had sabotaged the controls, someone should have taken an energy rifle or handgun and just shot out the control panel and emitters. This book also exposed the Ghatazhak as not as invincible as in past episodes. They had a lot of loses in the battle on the planet of Kohoran and also when they stormed the battleship.

The book has a lot of action near the end and a lot of it you cannot really follow with a mental image; there is too much of it. So the book ended leaving me with a feeling of defeat for the Alliance, just as the author intended.

Chris says

The last-minute saves in this series are getting a little ridiculous, but thankfully they are used sparingly. However, having gone this deep into the series, I find myself emotionally invested in the core characters and the plot. (Yes, for pulp sci-fi. Fite me.) I'll see it through. Two more to go.
