



The Star Brotherhood (AGU: SC Intelligence #1)

Thomas DePrima

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Space Opera meets Horse Opera in this fast-paced adventure story featuring the Space Command Intelligence undercover team headed by Trader Vyx. The team, introduced in Book 4 of the A Galaxy Unknown series, and with small roles in subsequent books, is now featured in their own story as this AGU: SCI series kicks off. This story is a mix of low-tech and high-tech as shootouts in saloons and city streets vie with spaceship chases and space battles to dominate the pages of this book.

Space Command Intelligence operates to the full width and breadth of Galactic Alliance space—and sometimes beyond. Intelligence gathering is a dangerous profession, and most agents operate alone, or with a single partner, but there are exceptions. Trader Vyx, originally a lone field agent, was saddled with two information gatherers when he left the Gollasko Colony, but mutual bonds of respect soon grew between the three men. When two female operatives were rescued from Tsgardi slavers by Vyx, Byers, and Nelligen, SCI temporarily assigned the women to Vyx's team. Now, years later, the team is still together, and operating as one of the most effective groups in SCI.

With the defeat of the Uthlaro Dominion, their former territory has fallen into anarchy. Space Command doesn't have adequate resources to bring the region under control while facing other enemies on multiple fronts in Regions One and Two, so SCI agents have been sent in to do what they can.

Trader Vyx and his team are on the planet Bleadalto, two hundred light-years from Uthlarigasset. Their mission is to assess the situation there and learn everything they can about the slavery problem, but the once out-of-control-violence situation on Gollasko seems like a tea social compared to everyday life on Bleadalto. Within hours of arriving on the planet, Vyx is forced into a gunfight with a Brotherhood thug. The large crime organization is not pleased.

The Star Brotherhood (AGU: SC Intelligence #1) Details

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From Reader Review The Star Brotherhood (AGU: SC Intelligence #1) for online ebook

Dave Shaw says

This is a fun read. Lots of action and intrigue. But...

The characters are not described well (I don't know what any of them look like), and they don't always behave believably. For example, why wouldn't the lead character's (sadly one-dimensional) love interest discuss her concerns with the lead character, if they have a healthy, adult relationship?

This book is clearly all setup for subsequent books, as there's very little resolution of any of the subplots. At least there isn't an annoying cliffhanger ending, although that might have generated more interest in sequels.

I have to mention the blurb. It describes the book without telling us anything about it. Query Shark would give it an epic fail if it was a query submitted to her.

Lastly, I would love it if the author would learn to tone down his use of adjectives in the first few chapters of every book. He always eases up as the book progresses, but those first couple of chapters are always painful.

So, to finish, it's a fun read and I'll be reading the next in the series, but I do hope the sequel is a bit meatier.

Jacque Holst says

Good Read

Been reading DePrima's books for quite awhile. Like the Galaxy Unknown series and picked up The Trader Vyx/AGU:SCI series from that. Pure space opera, a good read.

Bill says

Too short is all: so a 3 vs 4.

Stephen Dawson says

Entertaining in the way that all DePrima's books have been, but short and somewhat insubstantial in the plot - this is really only half a book, and presumably the rest will come later.

The editing needs some improvement: the author and editor need to learn the difference between "it's" and "its", and the use of possessive apostrophes. And the page layout makes no distinction between paragraphs and section breaks, which makes for awkward reading in places.

Per Gunnar says

This a rather short (less than 200 pages) side story in the A Galaxy Unknown universe featuring Trader Vyx as the main character. As the blurb states it is really a match between science fiction (I'm not really sure I would call this book space opera) and western shootouts. I quite liked it. It uses the latest adventures of Jenetta Carver as the backdrop for a light and quite enjoyable little adventure story.

Trader Vyx is a do-not-fuck-with-me gunslinger or at least that is the image that he makes an excellent effort to convey. In reality he is an operative of Space Command Intelligence. I really liked the character as well as the characters of his friends and quite a few of the people that he encounters. The not so likable characters in the book usually have rather short lifespans. At least after they made the poor judgment of trying to step in Trader Vyx way.

Like any true adventure hero Trader Vyx seems to have considerable number of fair ladies strewn out over the galaxy as well. Needless to say these are not disposed off as quickly as the previously mentioned less likable acquaintances.

The story itself is a rather simple one and moves rather quickly from one situation to another. Most situations involve the use of weaponry for their solution. I would say that my only real complaint concerning this book would be that it is rather short and the joy of reading it was a short one.

Megasport says

I have read all of the Deprima books and highly reccomend him as a excellent story teller and character developer. He is in my opinion the best syfi space opera author I have found.

Carolyn Golas-Burkam says

Fast,quick!

I didn't stop reading til I was done! nice to see a different view that wasn't all "carvers to the rescue", I love her too, but she's only three women!

Tim says

Rattles along at a good pace, but it's kinda lite on description in places, and it could do with more proofreading.

Andrew says

This was a very good short story set in the A Galaxy Unknown universe. It stars one of my favorite characters from the series so far in a interesting little story of intrigue. Trader Vyx is a perfect main character for this space western and i would recommend this book to anyone that enjoyed that main series or just wants to read a fun fast space mystery story.

Bill Bowne says

Not bad for a novella, but too many loose ends and for a full book. I guess this is the start of another, spinoff series. I enjoyed it, although I'd have liked it better fleshed out.
