



First Strike

Richard Turner

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When war comes after a century of peace, it is sudden and brutal. Taken by surprise Earth's far-flung colonies are in danger.

The only son of an admiral, Second Lieutenant Michael Sheridan finds himself thrust into a desperate conflict that he and the untried soldiers under his command are not ready for. Fighting the enemy and the elements on a cold, hostile world, Sheridan must rely upon Staff Sergeant Cole, a veteran Marine, to help lead his green soldiers into battle.

Focusing on the people struggling to survive the onslaught, First Strike is a novel that propels the reader to the furthest limits of space. From the ground to the stars, First Strike looks at the conflict through the eyes of those caught up in it.

Fighting a ruthless and determined enemy, Sheridan soon learns the brutal lessons of war and that his enemy may not be what it appears to be.

First Strike Details

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Rahul says

The Kurgans haven't been at war with Earth for more than a century. When suddenly, they blew up one of Earth's ships, therefore declaring war against Earth. Micheal Sheridan, a young marine who just came out of the Academy, has been placed on a ship that will help in this new space war. War is a place where anything can happen, and Second Lieutenant Micheal sure doesn't expect the worse. But when you're stranded on a planet, in enemy territory with barely anyone with you, what can you exactly hope for in the middle of a war? What can you do when there are so many people that betray you, and the numbers of people on your side only become smaller, and smaller, until there is you, and two other people? You are being counted on a self-sufficient human, and are only kept going by the thought of your loved ones. That is what The First Strike is all about. This novel is a fantastic science fiction book that shows advanced space technology, and space warfare. The main characters risk lives to save others and would sacrifice their own if it meant that they would win. Teamwork and respect for others is a big part of this book, and having the courage to set foot in a war is another. Science fiction readers will love this book for its suspense and dramatic events that take place. Where one second, your best friend is your best friend and the next, they betray you like they never were. But, Micheal Sheridan and his crew push through their hardships, because they know that they can do anything they put their mind to. This book is about brave people, who risk everything at the beginning, and even though there are major casualties, they push through and reach their goal. The First Strike is about a romantic relationship, a war, and the bravery it takes to win one.

Paolo says

War, it is a very harsh environment you may lose some of your friend's but the only thing that it comes down to is surviving and winning. Well for Second Lieutenant Michael Sheridan, he is stranded on a planet far away from home planet earth. All Lieutenant Michael Sheridan wants to do is get the first division but when that was no longer possible he was in the low division but he finds friends and a hard, trustworthy group of people. When the kurgans invade after a century of peace Sheridan and his friends are forced to be in the front lines of the war and the struggle of staying alive and defeating the kurgans. While The Kurgans will keep on pushing until other soldiers have been assigned to help fight.

The first strike kurgan war is a book about science fiction was a pretty good book. The meaning of this book is about teamwork, having respect with who you are with the army. This main character is a very brave man even though there was a lot of bumps in the road like not having his dream position he still worked hard to save his planet.

Kavita Favelle says

A bit of a mixed bag, this is a military saga that's sci-fi only by dint of being set in the future, in space and with aliens, but somehow feels like it's stuck in the past. Some interesting characters and plot lines but also a bit muddled by switching view-points between a lot of characters. OK but not one I'd seek out.

Mick Bird says

What a start

This is the first book of Richard Turner that I have read, and have enjoyed it from page one. He has given us the readers a fast pasted read allowing us to follow a new graduate from the marine officer academy. He finds himself on the front lines, fighting against a surprising enemy.

Sarah says

Got this book for free through BookBub, for Nook. The writing was plain and expository, and dialogue was clunky. The action scenes held my attention, and there were enough of them that this was a quick read. I wouldn't encourage anyone to go out of their way to read this, but if you're a big fan of military sci fi and have a couple bucks to spare, it might be worth looking past the flaws. If there are sequels I might read them if I was bored.

Adam Windsor says

Aliens that are smack of being proxies-for-Muslims attack humanity, launching a conflict that for some reason resembles World War I in many ways: trench warfare, human waves, all that stuff. Humanity ultimately fights back on one of the attacked planets, through the efforts of the protagonists.

This book is a good example of how merely stringing together your story events and presenting them in functional (though badly edited) prose is not enough to make an engaging read. A giant space bear attacks, and it's honestly no more exciting than a scene where two characters share a meal. Far too often, "big moments" in the story are basically depicted almost as blandly as this: "SUDDENLY X THREAT HAPPENED! So the character did Y, and everything was okay."

J.J. Mainor says

The first mistake was handing the compass to the 2nd lieutenant...then things go downhill from there.

Take it as you will, much of this story was stuck in the 20th/21st century with interracial bias still existing in the far future, and weaponry that hasn't evolved much besides being stuck to advancing equipment. This seems like a fun military adventure and tale of heroism against tough odds, but beneath the surface this is an allegory for our current war on terror, especially as the characters realize Kurgan infiltrators are going to be more difficult to detect than they realize, we've reminded not to see the enemy everywhere we look, just as we shouldn't judge every person of Middle Eastern descent as a potential terrorist just because of a few individuals.

JulianH says

The First Strike Kurgan War by Richard Turner, was not the best book in the world and I have definitely read better, but was an interesting science fiction book. I recommend this book if you are a total Star Wars or Star Trek fan because there is a similar plot and similar characters. The book is about a Lieutenant Officer named Sheridan. He graduates from the academy where he trains to be a military officer. This book is set far into the future because they have large spaceships, colonized several other planets, and came into contact with a new species called Kurgans who turn against the humans and have two large wars with them. There are many conflicts in the book such as that Sheridan's mother does not approve of him dating a girl named Tarina because she is black and he is white. Another conflict is that Sheridan gets put into the 19th division instead of the best division which is the 1st which he definitely should have made. Sheridan doesn't know who to trust after he realizes that some humans are working for the Kurgans. I didn't necessarily like the book but I found it to be pretty interesting. This book overall was an okay book.

Andrew says

4.2 stars. This was a great read. Could not put it down. The mix of sci fi with the reality of interaction between the fighting men and women was done exceptionally well. Character development provided me with several people I found myself rooting for. Can't wait to see the next book come out.

Nancy says

Second Lieutenant Michael Sheridan finds himself as a green soldier on the front lines of a space battle with a technically superior race. His assignment takes him to a planet under siege. Here he leads the men under his command behind enemy lines and carries out strategic missions that test his mettle. Well-written action scenes, enough intrigue to make for a strong plot, and a likeable hero make this a pleasant read. Some viewpoint switches could have been handled better, but overall this is a fast-paced read if you enjoy space opera. Hopefully, the characters will develop further as the series progresses.

Shelly Singhal says

Decent. The author knows the military

The problem with military books is that the enemy has to be vile so the reader can cheer the carnage. It's much harder to root for an army when they're fighting someone like themselves with the same values.

This is an entertaining book but it's a bit hollow

Stephen says

Space war

I'm not usually much for military books but when it is sci-fi I keep a more open mind. This one was a good read with few writing errors. The storyline was good and flowed well. As usual there was an underlying love story but it did not take away from the main story. The characters were well developed and it would be interesting to see where they go from here.

Honeybee says

I chose this eBook, because it was offered for free on Amazon, and I love science fiction. This was the first time I have read anything by this author. While the novel held my attention from start to finish, it had some issues that make me unlikely to continue the series or look for other books by the same person.

First, the author had way too many point-of-view characters. The main characters in the book were Michael Sheridan and his girlfriend, Tarina--both recent graduates from Space Academy--and Sargent Cole, a veteran Marine assigned to Sheridan. However, the author got into the heads of several other characters, including Sheridan's dad, some "expendable crew-members" who were killed off at various stages of the story, etc. It was a little distracting and frequently confusing that he kept switching back-and-forth without much warning.

The story line of this novel is that a reptilian race, called the Kurgans, suddenly attacks a human supply fleet without provocation, instigating a war for the first time in several years. It becomes evident that they have prepared for this war ever since the end of previous hostilities that ended in a treaty and the creation of a "Disputed Zone" between the Kurgan Empire and Federation territory. The Kurgans have planted sleeper agents in strategic locations of the human defense system and employ converts to their cause as soldiers in the battle for an important frontier planet they invade and attempt to conquer. The invaders sound a lot like Muslims with their devotion to an unnamed god, their violence, fanaticism and disregard for the lives of their enemies and their own soldiers. This made me feel like it was a thinly veiled attempt to dehumanize followers of the Islamic religion and justify killing its adherents.

Although this is a military-themed novel, I appreciated that the author did not rely on graphic violence to tell his story. There was also no sex or profanity to speak of. Parts of the book seemed realistic; others contrived. It was sad to see some of the more likeable characters die. The author definitely conveys the sentiment that "War is hell," and full of heartbreak. He also does a good job of showing the value of good leadership and loyalty in a Marine attachment.

Even though this book was interesting, I don't think I will purchase the other books in the series (It looks like there are four more), for the reasons mentioned above. However, if you are a person (guys especially) who likes military and sci-fi books, then this may be right up your alley.

M.L. says

This is a boring book with no added value whatsoever. Events happen mechanically through the viewpoint of

mainly one generic character going through several events in a straightforward heroic manner. The writing is clean but not exceptional, the plot contains several stupidities but is otherwise simplistic and the characters themselves are cardboard clichés mostly. There is no complexity in any of these areas that make this book really worth reading.

Harry says

Wars are a place where you can learn discipline and trust for others. In *The First Strike*, Kurgan War Book One, Second Lieutenant Michael Sheridan finds himself stranded on a planet extremely far from his home on planet Earth. With his lifelong dream of being in the first division gone, he was put in a low division but finds himself making friends and a trustworthy crew. When the enemies, the Kurgans start a war at the disputed zone after a century of peace. Sheridan and his crew are now stranded at the planet which is being attacked. The Kurgans will keep on pushing until other soldiers have been assigned to help fight. Sheridan's crew barely holds the front line and will take a risk to defeat the Kurgans. Even though they have only won this war there are many more planets to be taken over. Throughout Sheridan's adventure, he learns so much that he wasn't told. For instance, in the academy, where he is trained for war, they told him always to salute but when he gets into the real war he is told that it is useless and doesn't mean anything.

This science fiction novel is a great read because it takes place in the future with all of the new space technology. You get to learn the discipline and respect for your superiors through the military. You will also learn about the risks you need to take even if it means people will die. The main characters are extremely brave and will do anything to save the planet.
