



# The Rogue Prince

*Lindsay Buroker*

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## **The Rogue Prince** Lindsay Buroker

Starseer, pilot, and animal lover Jelena Marchenko wants to prove to her parents that she's ready to captain her own freighter and help run the family business. When she finally talks them into getting a second ship and letting her fly it, it doesn't faze her that the craft is decades old and looks like a turtle. This is the chance she's craved for years.

But it's not long before the opportunity to rescue mistreated lab animals lures her from her parentally approved cargo run and embroils her in a battle between warring corporations. To further complicate matters, her childhood friend Thorian, prince of the now defunct Sarellian Empire, is in trouble with Alliance law and needs her help.

Torn between her duty to her family and doing what she believes is honorable, Jelena is about to learn that right and wrong are never as simple as they appear and that following your heart can get you killed.

## **The Rogue Prince Details**

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## From Reader Review The Rogue Prince for online ebook

### Navdha says

Woohooooo!! It was sooo fun! Ms. Buroker's books are always so entertaining, action packed and full of such eccentric yet adorable characters that I keep coming back for more!

*The Rogue Prince* starts off ten years after the events of the last book in the Fallen Empire series End Game. Leonidas has more grays in his hair and is having to deal with the complications of being a cyborg at 50. Alisa's daughter Jelena is all grown up and is "helping" expand the family business by captaining an old, turtle-shaped freighter. Erick, the awkward, gangly, bike-racer Ostberg kid is now 24 and no longer Mica's apprentice but an engineer on Jelena's ship. The book starts with Jelena deciding to take a detour from her first assignment to save some mistreated animals. The short trip actually snowballs into a series of events that Jelena could never have anticipated. The events, or as Jelena would say it, noble adventures, include rescuing animals, kidnapping people, ferrying the rescued animals to different planets while running from a giant corporation, meeting an old friend, convincing old friend to join her "adventures" and basically trying to make a deadline when nothing seems to be working in her favor. It's all very fast-paced, captivating and filled with the usual snark that I so love from the characters!

I really enjoyed the banter and relationship that Erick and Jelena share. Erick is like a big brother to Jelena but I'm kinda curious to see if it could turn into something else.. maybe? Erick has a goofy, likable personality but he can be the mature voice of reason when Jelena is way over head. Jelena is of course in some ways like Alisa. She is impulsive, rash and unpredictable but she is also kind-hearted, funny and determined. Just like Alisa, her compassion always lands her in trouble but at least she isn't as lippy as her mother \*wink wink\*. Then we have our sullen, broody, ninja-esque, rogue Imperial prince aka Thorian who kinda reminded me of Sicarius from the The Emperor's Edge Collection series but not quite? I don't know how to explain it. He definitely has some traits that are quite similar to Sicarius, like the upbringing (kinda), the training (sorta) and the lack of morality. However, he still is his own person and his history makes you want to condone his unscrupulous actions and sympathize with him. I definitely want to see how the author handles his character in the upcoming books.

As for the plot, I'm really intrigued to see how the author resolves the whole Alliance/Empire debacle in the sequels. The Alliance has been the ruling government for the past ten years after all but with Thorian all grown up and ready to build an army, things are going to get spicy and I can't wait!

Even though you don't really need to read the *Fallen Empire* series to enjoy this book, it's still nice to see how the old characters are doing now and reminisce. If you haven't read that series yet, I would recommend doing so. You won't regret it!

Overall, I would gladly adorn the book with 4 shining stars!

*I voluntarily reviewed the ARC in exchange for an honest opinion cause it's Ms. Buroker's new book..Duh!*

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### Mandapanda says

4.5 stars. Anyone who knows this author's writing knows what they're in store for. Adventure, interplanetary

action, space ship chases, a lovable cast of characters and a very slow burn romance between an honorable fearless young woman and an emotionally closed off hero. Totally my jam. It's like the author is writing just for me. Don't start here. Start with the Fallen Empire series. The other gratifying thing about this author is that she writes fast!

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### **Jenny Koch says**

I was mildly concerned after reading about an assassin hero that this would be Emperor's Edge - In Space! (with a bonus childhood friends plot line!) - but the young cast and the "search for self" theme common in young adult books added a whole new dimension to the tale. I grew tired of the Fallen Empire series by the last few books but this new generation series has caught my attention.

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### **Mitchell says**

I picked up this book after reading Buroker's short story in the "Orphans in the Black" sci-fi anthology. That short story was set after this book, so I sort of had a good idea how it would end generally, but it didn't detract from the story too much. This series is also set after another series with, I believe, the previous generation of this group and their adventures. Those stories reverberate through this one, and while Buroker says that you do not need to have read the previous series before jumping into this one, the previous world-building helps to add depth and a sense of history to this book.

The story focuses on Jelena and Erick, two young people who have been given a star ship frieghter and their first solo assignment delivery without Jelena's parents. Jelena, however, learns of a base that is conducting inhumane tests on animals and decides that she needs to rescue the test animals, which sets off the B plot that dogs them throughout the book and gives insight into Jelena and Erick and their temperament. They are both Starseers; humans born with superhuman mental abilities that seem to run all over the map from speaking with animals, unlocking locks, manipulating electronics, and controlling other humans. They find out that a former friend of theirs has been implicated in a number of assassinations and is wanted by the authorities. Much like with the lab animals, Jelena decides that they need to take an active hand in the matter despite the more cautious Erick's objections.

This story is set in a star system with a number of habitable planets as there wasn't any evidence of FTL travel. Travel is fast enough, however, that they are able to get around easily enough. As far as world building goes, it wasn't bad. Much of the time is spent on their ship. The Starseer power is never fully explained, and while they seem to have any number of applications to which it can be plied, the author was fairly consistent in who could do what, in terms of powers.

This definitely is geared more towards the YA crowd as it is all about young people finding themselves both professionally and morally as they grapple with choices between friends, beliefs, and following the law. It was a good book and I may pick up the next in the series.

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### **Isa Lavinia says**

This book only became interesting to me at the 50 something percent mark, which is unusual with any of

Buroker's books. But after that it became amazing!

As usual I loved all the characters.

And while it feels like we're reading star wars fanfic, it's good star wars fanfic so that's ok.

I have to admit I don't have much patience for characters like Thor: the brooding, emotionally constipated assassin who is obsessed with his lady love.

I didn't like it with Sicarius and I doubt I'll like it with this series.

I guess I'm getting old but I prefer to read about relationships where both partners are contributing the same amount of emotional labour to the relationship.

Besides, having established how abhorrent mind rape is in previous books, it's incredibly horrifying to have Thor constantly reading Jelena's mind at all times., like wtf, this isn't romantic or even cute. It's revolting!

That being said I really like everything else, even if I always read Jelena's name as Jolene (please don't take my man).

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## **Sherwood Smith says**

Ever since the first mention of the younger generation during the *Fallen Empire* series, I hoped that they would get their own story. Well, here it is, and so far, it's hitting a lot of my favorite buttons in space opera.

Jelena Marchenko is a lot like her mother Alisa: now that she's eighteen, and is embarking on her very first trade journey in the family's new spaceship (which looks like a turtle), she has this great idea for a super quick side-journey to rescue some abused animals from a lab. In and out, quick and easy, deliver the goods and Mom and Step-Dad, ex-Imperial Cyborg Commander Leonidas Adler, won't even know.

Ri-i-i-ght. [Uh, for those who, like me, check *Does The Dog Die* before watching any film that has animal characters, (view spoiler)]

Her partner in crime is Erick Ostberg, who we last saw nearly getting killed in the *Fallen Empire* series. He's now an older man of twenty-four, recently returned from university, and he's acting as Jelena's engineer. The two of them squabble and banter like brother and sister, which I highly enjoyed, as they get deeper and deeper into an adventure that they did not foresee.

In the middle of all this high-speed action, Jelena gets some bad news. Then more bad news, about her one-time buddy, Thorian, ex heir to the fallen empire. She hasn't seen him for years, and now there's all this high-level flap about him spreading across the galaxy. The Alliance, it seems, wants to kill him. Jelena, so like her mom, just wants to help.

The result is a fast-paced, cinematic adventure, crackling with humor, and shimmering with promising threads for where the story might be going. I hope, to bigger stakes. Jelena doesn't know her own potential--she's been busy working on what she wants to work on. Thorian, on the other hand, has been trained to become a weapon of mass destruction, with all the emotional fallout you'd expect. And Erick Ostberg looks askance at all this, but he doesn't desert family, even made-family . . .

Such a delicious opening to a series! Full of lots of good character moments and insight, and of course plenty of wisecracks as well as breakneck-paced action. I am so looking forward to the rest.

Copy provided by author for advance reading.

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### **Denise says**

Like mother, like daughter: Ten years after *Endgame*, Jelena Marchenko is 18 years old and ready and eager to head out on her own. To that end, she's persuaded her mother and stepfather to add another ship to their transport business and letting her captain it on a trial cargo run. The routine mission quickly ends up getting sidelined, however, when Jelena learns about an unscrupulous corporation's animal experiments that she is determined to stop. Of course, while "liberating" a bunch of lab animals, she lands herself (and by extension, her unwilling partner in crime Erick Ostberg, who came along as her engineer) in a whole lot of trouble including an involuntary passenger and heavily armed thugs chasing them across the system. And then there are the rumours floating around about Jelena's childhood friend Prince Thorian, who has apparently been busy roaming the system and brutally assassinating people who've wronged his family, making the Alliance determined to hunt him down...

Having loved the *Fallen Empire* books immensely, I'd been very much looking forward to the spin-off series ever since it was announced. *The Rogue Prince* has all the fast-paced adventurous space opera fun of the preceding series, ensuring that this next generation tale should easily appeal to anyone who's enjoyed the *Fallen Empire* books – knowledge of those books isn't necessarily required to plunge into this story, but why would you want to miss out on all that fun? Jelena is a lot younger than her mother Alisa was at the beginning of *Star Nomad*, and it's clear that she still has some growing up to do to temper her reckless adventure spirit with some good old common sense – I'm very much looking forward on following her as she gains the experience necessary for that growth. With big brother figure Erick by her side, there's ample room for snarky banter, and new character Masika, who's still a bit of an enigma, adds some much needed maturity to the character line-up. Adding Thorian, whose development in the intervening years have led him down a dark path, to the mix sets up an interesting crew for the *Snapper's* upcoming second outing. This spin-off is off to a promising start!

*I received a free ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Kay Dee says**

2 stars means it's ok. it's really 1 1/2 stars. parts were ok. parts i really didn't like.

Mad so many folks thought that the book was only ok, yet still gave it 3 stars. I looked at the ratings but didn't actually read many reviews until AFTER i read *Smuggler Ship*.

A LOT of 3 star reviews complained about the same things as the 1 and 2 star reviewers. They gave 3 stars anyway just cuz they like the author or hate giving 2 stars. That's not right and gives a false rating of over 90% people liking the book (when reading the reviews proves that is not true.)

Many kept saying this book was geared for YA or NA. Maybe so, but i read a ton of YA. Nothing makes this series any different from other Lindsay Buroker stories. She wrote about a young man that was barely 20 in

the chains of honor series (Snake Heart) and also in the heritage of power series(Dragon Storm). Those young folk annoyed me as well but they were not as ugh as jelena. also i loved those stories. very few parts did i not like. just because main characters are young does not make a book YA or NA. I think cuz the story was convoluted and jelena kept doing stupid things that compounded her troubles folks excused it cuz they think that is how YA is.

No. The plots are convoluted in this book. most of the plot points rely on jelena making stupid decisions. It also relies on contradictions, everyone forgetting training, skillz, concerns, and common sense that they had previously shown in smuggler's ship or previous chapters in the book. For instance, jelena's soft heart for animals and not wanting to even injure people, let alone kill them.

Title is misleading since prince thorian is mentioned but doesn't show up until the last few chapters. Thorian's actions make sense but it took like 4-5 books to mellow leonidas and sicarius. Maybe lindsay read the reviews and stopped at 3 books to spare everyone.

Since i bought the books and the i want to see what happens to erik, thorian, and the old characters from Fallen Empire Books 1-3, i will read the other 2. I hope it gets better.

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### **Jon Spriggs says**

On paper, this is exactly up my street. It's psionics, in space, with spaceships. An exiled prince, cyborgs (kinda) and lots of space battles.

Except. It's a bit flat. The heroine is a bit soft. Her only concern (initially at least) is rescuing animals... OK, I can get behind that, aside from the fact that the only nod to that in the future is in a bit of banter, the presence of a pet dog and a one-line entry saying the animals are re-housed.

There's lots of discussion about underwear (and not because it's saucy, but because it's apparently funny?) and capes..... that happens too many times.

Let me put this another way. I've read other stories from this author (notably the Dragon's Blood and Emperor's Edge books), and it's \*flat\*. It's a real shame because I like lots of her material, and this just really didn't work.

It's like a Mary-Jane story by a 13 year old... "Imagine I had mind powers, and cruised around in space rescuing animals, except this time I did more than that because I had to rescue a [spoiler] and then a [spoiler] needed my help, so I rescued [spoiler] too..."

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### **Chanel says**

The events of this story take place 10 years after the Fallen Empire series. Luckily, you don't have to read the previous series in order to follow along with this one but it wouldn't hurt to gain more back story especially about the world in which these events take place.

We open with Jelena Marchenko who has been given a chance at expanding the family freighter business.

She has been given a new shuttle, named the Snapper (aptly named for its snapping turtle shape), and Erick Ostberg as her engineer. In the previous series they were about 10-13 years old but now they're both 18+. You can definitely tell they grew up together by their super witty conversations and jokes. They accomplish their initial mission but end up getting sidetracked because Jelena comes across a facility that is not treating animals humanely and wants to "liberate" them.

Now you have two Starseers getting into side quests that don't go as planned and along the way pick up an extra passenger who has a huge affinity for the arts as well problems of her own that lead the crew into a deeper mess. You also hear about what's going on with Prince Thorian these days. If you read The Emperor's Edge series, you can kind of get a Sicarius feel (living life only by what he knows and has been trained to do) where Prince Thorian's feelings are concerned but only subtly because Thorian isn't completely heartless even if it seems so right now.

Another great thing about these characters is you get a little bit more depth about the different Starseer abilities. Jelena is really good with communicating with animals while Erick is good at communicating with electronics and Thorian has some very strong telekinesis powers along with communicating and sometimes manipulating humans. It will be great to see how their powers develop over time.

All in all it was definitely a great start to the series especially with cameo appearances by characters we know and love from Fallen Empire. I took off a star because it took me a little bit to get into the first 50 pages or so but fret not because it picks up and gets really good and I can't wait til the second book!

I received an advanced reader copy by the author in exchange for my honest review.

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## **David P. Duffy says**

### **"Fallen Empire" Knockoff for Teens and Millennials, Not Grownups**

"The Rogue Prince (Sky Full of Stars, Book 1)," is the start of a series, based upon the "Fallen Empire" series, and apparently aimed at a different reading audience-teens, Millennial ersatz adults, animal rights zealots, to name a few.

The author, Miss Lindsay Buroker, is a very able writer, who is adept at moving a plot, a narrative, forward, and in an entertaining manner. However, in "The Rogue Prince," the skills and talents possessed by the author, are used to target an audience that is the youth market, not mature adults.

As a grownup, an appreciative reader of the "Fallen Empire" series, and Miss Buroker's writing, this reviewer is honestly disappointed. "The Rogue Prince" is well written structurally, but it's for kids. As this book is aimed at youth, the transactional and questionable ethical and moral decisions expressed within, are both disturbing and problematic. The author espouses violent vigilantism, vengeance, revenge, resulting in property damage, physical injury, assassinations, and death, in what are described as noble causes, without fully laying out the ramifications to young readers. A morality tale requires morals that "The a Rogue Prince" does not possess.

"The Rogue Prince" is not recommended for adults, and narrowly recommended for mature youth, able to discern right and wrong. The book was fully read via Kindle Unlimited.



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## **Diane says**

### **Amazon 3.5; Goodreads 3.2: "I liked it"**

I enjoy all of Lindsay Buroker's books, with fun, well-written action and dialogue, following likable leads, but this heroine does feel awfully young. (I know: she *\*IS\**.) Her impulsive plans end up with quite a bit of collateral damage, and consequences that she'll be dealing with (along with her family) for some time.

I'll also have to see where the series goes with Thorian's character. Currently, I tend to agree with Erick that they shouldn't really have helped him fight lawful Alliance soldiers, especially given his deadly methods. Just because they were NPCs/redshirts doesn't mean he gets a pass. Even some of the verifiably corrupt/greedy Imperial traitors (as opposed to the now-family-friend he also planned to target — SPOILER: LB doesn't write tragedies) might actually not have been that bad: Thor has no way of knowing whether they'd disapproved of the Empire's oppressive control, and were simply happy to have a profitable way to help end it. I don't always utterly oppose vigilantes, but they have to be 110% sure of their facts first, and the former prince has yet to admit that his father's rule was flawed!

I'll certainly be continuing with SFoS, but I'm not so eager that it's at the top of my list. Hopefully, Jelena will be growing up and getting wiser, though even mother Alisa's course tended to have plenty of digressions and but-they're-on-your-side-aren't-they? conflicts (similar to LB's Emperor's Edge fantasies, TBH). If you just read them as light adventures, and don't fret too much over "refrigerator realizations" (issues you don't think of until you put the book down and go to the refrigerator), you'll have plenty of entertainment.

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## **Lorre says**

Jelena Marchenko is every bit as bonkers and reckless as her mom Alisa (from the Fallen Empire series. And Ostberg is a great sidekick to help get her out of the trouble she gets herself in. Love the banter between the two!

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## **Carl Phillips says**

Like an idiot I broke my own rule and bought the first and second book in this series at the same time. I regret that a lot now, as I flat out hated this book.

Lets take a step back. My first experience of Lindsey Buroker was the Emperors Edge series. Which was a fun, well written series that I enjoyed. When the Fallen Empire series was released I was a little dismayed to see the same characters re-used. Alisa is a clone of Amaranthe, Leonides is a clone of Sicarius etc. Now I coped with that, and the Fallen Empire series was mostly good (although probably two books to long).

Now this.

I can almost recreate Lindsey Buroker's thought process:

I need a new series  
I enjoyed Fallen Empire  
I can't really use Alisa and Leonides again - they are parents and old  
Lets use Alisa's daughter!  
She can be similar to her mum, with the same sense of humour!  
I can write lots of tiresome banter about animals!  
She'll need a support cast - lets recycle some characters!  
And a love interest... I know, I'll turn Thorian into a brooding murderer so I can do the same love story again! Irreverence and optimism defeats brooding darkness!  
YAY!

So not only does the reader have to deal with the same character types again (having already seen them twice), but also the same plot trajectory. I really can't be bothered.

But that is not the worst bit. Jelena is simply annoying. Really, really annoying. She makes horribly selfish choices and displays a level of naivety that is utterly unbelievable given her supposed background. Nothing she did in this book was sensible, and by rights none of it should have worked. Furthermore the fact she persuaded others to assist her is ludicrous. And then, to find out that the whole, bundling first half of the book was to set up the start of Take 3 of the Amaranthe/Alisa vs Sicarius/Leonides love story is infuriating.

Worst book of the year so far. I will read the second, as like a fool I bought it. but it will have to be utterly amazing to convince me to continue reading Lindsey Buroker's books, let alone this series. And that makes me sad.

I have only ever given three 1 Star reviews before this. Sadly now its 4.

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## **Mei says**

Let's say that this book is a NA The Emperor's Edge with Jelena as Amaranthe and Thor as Sicarius! LOL

Since I loved The Emperor's Edge series I couldn't NOT like this one too (even if NA is not my thing)!

The wonderful thing about Ms. Buroker's writing is the dialogue! Even in the most Dangerous situation there's Always some funny sarcasm, a chirpy banter going on! It's great and wonderful! At least for me!

Jelena and Erick (her engineer) are both Starseers and both have their unque mental powers. Jelena can touch animal minds, while Erick is skilled with mechanics and electronics.

Thor is much more powerful than Jelena and Erick combined! His powers are off charts!  
He's also (just like Sicarius) cold and ninja-alike! :)

The adventures are both hilarious and scary. Jelena wants to do good, but everything she does goes awry!  
She wants to save tortured animals and that is a snowball that starts the avalanche! LOL

Erick and Masika are excellent secondary characters that add much to the story!

If you want a fun, romp of a SF adventure, pick this one! :)

