



The Expanses

Ryk Brown

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The Expanse

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Episode 7

A newly repaired ship...
A willing and eager crew...
A host of new technologies...
A long anticipated return home...

The crew of the UES Aurora finally has the chance to fulfill their mission, but first they must complete a long and dangerous journey across a thousand light years of unexplored space.

“The Expanse” is a 104,000 word novel, and is the 7th episode in The Frontiers Saga.

The Expanse Details

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Author : Ryk Brown

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Genre : Science Fiction, Space, Space Opera, War, Military Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Expanse for online ebook

Connie Garvie says

Completely Awesome!

For the previous book in this series, I wrote that it was my favorite of the series. I was very wrong. This book makes you feel proud of the people of Earth. I wanted too salute at the end, too! Thank you, Ryk Brown, for writing this book so I could enjoy it. Please continue!

Arnold Rogers-Beckley says

The awesomeness continues!

I just finished painting, tiling and grouting the master bathroom. Weirdly, I had The Frontiers series in my mind almost the whole time. I was wondering what the crew would encounter on their way to Earth...well Ep7 did not disappoint! I finished the book still in my stinky paint stained clothes. I'm physically tired but my mind is racing. I'm fighting the urge to start Ep8. I need to get some sleep. Curse you Ryk Brown! Why did your storytelling have to be so good! :)

David Syzdek says

A little different, but a rollicking read

Another great "episode" by Ryk Brown. This one was a bit slower to take off and a near miss for the crew of the Aurora seemed slightly contrived, but overall this was a great book with well-developed characters and an engaging plot.

Jean says

At last the Aurora is on the way home to earth, fully stocked and almost a full crew. It is not a boring journey. There is experimentation with the jump drive and lots of excitement, action and suspense with a black hole. The reader keeps wondering are they going to get home?

The book is well written, the plot is well developed and new characters take a prominent role in this episode. There is lots of action and suspense and as with most sci-fi one must allow the imagination to run free. The ending is a cliff hanger.

I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Jeffrey Kafer does an excellent job narrating the story. Kafer is a stage actor, voiceover artist and an award winning audiobook narrator.

Michael says

To start, this is book seven in the series - you need to start with Book 1, Ep.#1 - "Aurora: CV-01" (The Frontiers Saga) as this is not a standalone read.

What usually happens with continuations of a series is they start going downhill as the author has either exhausted his or her creativity or the story should have ended long ago. That's not the case with this series, as you have the exact opposite effect: it slowly started getting better, book #5 was a huge step forward, episode #6 was great, and in episode #7 the crew heads home. One of the better things (to me, at least) is the technology leaps are believable and didn't make you want to call a foul: you can get your arms (and head) around it without having to stop and think of the science.

The author continues to get you into the action, and you will find your pulse racing at different points in time - you feel like you are right in the middle of it as a participant. He is getting better with his character development and the characters in the book are starting to become old friends to this reader. If you're looking for a good space opera, I highly recommend this one.

John (JP) says

This is a fun summer read full of space battles. Get this from your library. Have them buy the whole set of 14 books. I came across this audio book by accident. I was looking for The Expanse from SYFY Network. This story has it all, experimental warship, young ne'er-do-well officer thrust into the captain's chair, an implacable enemy threatening Earth, and Spiral Arm, and a quest to get back to Earth before time runs out to save it. This Star Blazers the novel. If you read this or listen to it you won't get high minded ideas, or deep social commentary. You however have good time with the action and the characters.

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Mike says

This book is a continuation of the saga and much of the same fun that the previous books had. I felt it was a little bit slower than the previous books and a little boring at times. I expected a little bit of that based on where the characters were in this part of the story. I'm looking forward to the next one since this one set it up to be a lot more interesting.

Donna says

This is Space Opera Sci-fi. This was a book challenge read. As I started this, I wasn't sure I would be able to finish it. It was so "science-y". I had to make a real effort to keep my eyes from glazing over. This started off at a slow crawl. I contemplated putting it down, but it took me weeks to find this one in order to check off a box for the challenge. I wasn't sure I'd find another one. So I kept at it and I am so glad I did.

Once the story got rolling, I was caught up in the sci-fi wave. I honestly can't wait to read the next one. The ending was perfect. I usually don't like cliff hangers, but this one has me excited for the next one. So 4 stars.

Will Hudson says

POTENTIAL SPOILERS.....

For the most part, this is another great addition to the series. With them heading home though I think anyone following the series knew what they were going to find. That part is a bit obvious I know that Capt. Scott was thrust into the big chair and doesn't have the seasoning to have an abundance of self confidence in the job, but the little pitty party at the end, seemed out of character. I mean, we all do that from time to time, and I suppose it would be a bit natural, but it just didn't feel that way to me. I was almost hoping Vlad would kick him in the arse. LOL!

It will be interesting to see where Mr. Brown takes it from here. He has built up this amazing obstacle for the crew. He will have to walk a tight rope wire to resolve it and keep it believable. Can't wait for the next one.

Per Gunnar says

Before I start I better point out that this review do have some spoilers in it concerning the ending.

I was quite looking forward to this, the next book in The Frontiers Saga. I have to say that it did not live up to my expectations. If this was a TV-show this book would constitute the last episode with the sole purpose of preparing the viewers, or in this case the readers, for the next season. As such the ending is pretty much a huge cliff-hanger. This I guess I could live with. It was not really surprising since it was said already that the series should contain about 15 books in all.

I was hoping the Aurora would, finally, be coming back to Earth with some of that improved technology and that we would then embark on a new story arc where Earth would build up their fleet and start to defend themselves against the Jung. Instead, even though the Aurora did get back to Earth (briefly), what we really got was a last minute kind of "reboot" that throws the Aurora back as being a lone ship not really knowing what to do or where to go. This time she is at least not shot to hell but instead almost out of "fuel" for the engines. This was just so arrrrggghhhhh! I was really not happy after the last page. It feels like we are just going on the same, or at least a similar, type of story all over again.

The rest of the book is unfortunately not very exciting either. There is little actual action. Instead a lot of the book is spent on testing the new engines and harping a lot about it, harping a lot about whether they were going to be court-marshalled when coming home, doing a detour and finding an old colony ship with a mysterious survivor.

The only action, apart from a little shootout at the end, is when the captain is devising a ludicrous scheme for sending a lone fighter into a Jung hornet's nest which, of course, goes bad. This is my second gripe with this book. The captain is in a hurry to get home so Earth can defend itself and he carries technology that is vital for this effort. Yet he makes one ridiculous decision after another delaying and even endangering their trip home as well as endangering the technology in question to the extent that it might fall into enemy hands.

This book really felt like one of the lesser scripts in some mediocre TV-show. Not exactly what I expected. If I could have given it two and a half star I would have.

Peter Sidell says

A great saga that keeps getting better

I suspect the Frontiers Saga would still be called a cult book at this time, but that as its popularity spreads by word of mouth it will be recognized as a true classic and will be considered for a Hugo.

It's length is a mixed blessing - it means there is more to read, but that reading it is more of a commitment. While there are many characters in the story they are introduced slowly enough that the reader can keep them straight and get to know them.

The constant eruption of violence does begin to get a little old - to some extent this volume is a respite giving the characters time to regroup and the reader to see richer facets of their character.

For me it has been more fun than Harry Potter.

muhammedallia says

Picked up this book randomly using my library audiobook app and thought it was Book 1 but it makes sense that it is a sub trilogy in a larger series as the characters referenced things that did not happen in the beginning of this novel. It has some exciting action but honestly one flight chase scene went on for more than 20 minutes and got a bit tedious. None of the characters are memorable enough to separate out from one another. Maybe I'll go back and find the first book in the series but I am not in a hurry.

Kyle says

While the bulk of the book is enjoyable and further develops some of the characters, I can see how this book wouldn't be as enjoyable as the last being how the last installment was almost all action. That being said the last 2 chapters of this book had me on the edge of my seat and left me wanting to start the next book immediately. I'm glad I wasn't reading this when they first were published waiting for each new book.

Chris says

Knowing the title of the next book and having everything in the Pentaurus sector resolved in the last book, I expected this entry to be a fairly boring ride home. There is plenty going on and the mystery and action are really good. The only thing that brings it down is the whine and cheese at the end, but I'm anxious to find out what comes next. I'm hooked.

Kathleen says

The Aurora travels 1000 light years to cross the expanse. Going back home, to Earth. There is only one space-battle scene, which is enough for me. 3.75 stars rounded up because I felt the last chapters felt vivid. Nathan's fugue funk felt credible.
