



# Sanctuary

*Ken Lozito*

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The colony is still recovering from its war with the Vemus, but now they face a new threat. Something is causing a major upheaval among the creatures of New Earth, and the Colonial Defense Force is in trouble. A new discovery sheds light on what happened to the alien race that inhabited New Earth, and their fate may affect whether the colony survives. As the scientists race to unravel the mystery, hordes of super-predators are rushing toward colonial settlements, and Connor must find a way to stop them before all is lost! **Sanctuary is the fourth book in the First Colony military space opera series.**

## Sanctuary Details

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# From Reader Review Sanctuary for online ebook

## Timothy Leon says

### A very poor story line with a far to predictable ending.

A disappointing follow-up to the prior three books in the series. This book reads like a hastily thrown together project lacking the depth and character of its predecessors. Dash has no respect for any rule that prevents him from doing what he wants even when it places others in harm's way. He is a real asshole, and Lenora is an enabler as she condones his bad attitude. Connor acts like a door mat as he allowed her to walk all over him because he loves her. It's a pity the love in their relationship isn't reciprocal and she doesn't seem that she is taking advantage of the situation. In my opinion she has no respect for Connor or his opinion were dash is concerned. Why do the "bad guys" always have to be portrayed as bumbling idiots who are bested by the heroes despite their lack of experience in fighting and killing people. This book was a real dud and it has killed my interest in any future books in this series.

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## Bob Michaels says

This gets better with each book. I am really enjoying the series now. The main characters are getting better with age and the new characters added in each book are well developed and add welcome depth to the story.

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## Zachary says

### Enjoyable continuation of the series

Well, if you enjoyed the first three books of the series, you'll probably enjoy this one. Even though the stakes don't feel quite as high as they were in the last book, the action is still plenty tense and the story line feels like a natural continuation from where things left off. A fun, easy read. Great characters and a fast-paced narrative.

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## Will says

TL;DR: STOP AT BOOK 3, DO NOT READ THIS BOOK.

The first three books in this series were fantastic. I found myself blitzing through them. They had some very small plot holes but they were easy to overlook due to character development, character decision making was great, action sequences, and great story arc. Stop at book 3. Read more for a no spoiler break down of why. I don't often write reviews unless a book or product makes me feel like it is extremely good or extremely bad. This book is so thoroughly bad that I felt obliged to explain and warn other readers so that they don't feel the same levels of frustration, depressing let down, and pure confusion as I did when I read this one.

Book 4 is truly awful. The characters all seemed to change in horrific ways between book 3 and 4. Connor

seems like a completely different character lacking ALL of the development he went through in the first 3 stories. This is thoroughly depressing. Lenora has become a truly mean, extremely abusive, borderline evil in her manipulation of Connor, and entirely unpleasant character. It physically pained me to see the horrible relationship between these two characters and it makes zero sense in how they transformed into such miserable characters involved in a one way love, abusive relationship.

The minor characters from the first 3 books have become wooden and shallow characters, lacking all personality that they had shown and grown into. They seem included as an afterthought after the first draft of the book was already written.

The new "good guy" characters introduced are intolerable. The decisions that they make are horrendous and they lack any type of redeeming qualities. The female characters have absolutely zero depth, which is very sad to see after the pretty solid female characters from the first three books and the male characters seem to only be able to make frustratingly bad decisions. I get that they are young and emotional but the level this is taken to for 19-20 year olds that are supposed to be humanity's last greatest and brightest is entirely unrelatable.

The new "bad guy" characters and their entire side of the plot is simply ridiculous. I can't even begin to describe the lack of logic for their motives and their plan. Ken Lozito does a great job of making you hate the bad guys since they are one dimension characters with egregiously evil motives. Which brings you back to the why. Their motivations are illogical and the consequences of their plan are not proportional or thought out whatsoever. Once again, I get that they are supposed to be spiteful, mindless, emotional thug/murderers, but the degree this is taken to is again, entirely unrelatable. It isn't fun or interesting in the slightest. It's simply maddening.

I really wish I had something good to say about this book. I started the book without an inkling of how much of a let down it would be and was expecting the same quality of book I had become used to in the first 3. The only good thing about this installment in the series is that Scott Aiello continues his fantastic job of narration in the audible version.

I'm going to try the next book in hopes that it gets better but wow, this was difficult.

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## **Readerone says**

TL;DR Do not read. Stop at book 3 and keep your memories pleasant.

Let's not mince words, this is by far the worst book in the series.

I was actually quite excited to read this one. The third installment was so much better than the second and it looked like things were only going to get better. Connor steps away from command to have an adventure in the Alien ruins. Sounds great, right? We're introduced to Dash, who the story goes out of its way to tell us is just like Connor. But younger.

Dash is an unlikeable little jerk who refuses to listen to reason, steals things and puts his friends into danger. And gets away with it because... He's just like Connor. He doesn't learn any lessons. He just keeps failing upwards.

Lenora, who we're constantly told is a brilliant archeologist, throws reason and common sense out of her pram and keeps blaming Connor for Dash's stupidity. And whatever happened to Connor's backbone? He just rolls over and accepts Lenora's criticisms, despite, well, her being ridiculously wrong in almost every situation because... Love? Because doing anything sensible would stop Dash from moving the plot forward?

At some point, it all became too much for me. This was an unnecessary book. The main plot finished in book 3, but a fourth book to explain whatever happened to the former inhabitants of their world made a little sense. It could have been fun. But this teen soap inspired mess answers very few questions. Avoid.

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## **Christopher Kuzma says**

Plot holes and characters becoming unrecognizable.

I enjoyed the first three books in the series, but this book just changes everything. Without spoiling too much I will go over some of the things that made me hate this book.

The first is Conor, Lenora, and the new character Dash. Conor is almost unrecognizable from the previous books. He lets everyone walk over him, especially his female interest Lenora. She tells him that it his fault that Dash does idiotic things like exploring far away without any real support and it is also his fault that Dash hides where they are exploring. Yeah, Dash is an idiot and Lenora enables him. I did not like Lenora before this book and my opinion of her just gets worse. Conor is a military man. He might have done some reckless things when he was younger, but how the book tries to tell you that they are exactly the same is idiotic. Conor knows how to follow orders. Heck in the first book one of the main things he tries to make people do is have better communication, to follow rules to make sure that they are safe. He understands the situation that they are in. They live on a dangerous world and they need precautions. In the end, Lenora has her way kind of. Sure Conor needs to save the idiotic kids lives, proving that he was right, but since he is in love with Lenora and she says that he is wrong we should see it that way. Man, I should have seen the signs during the last book when Lenora got all drunk and yelled about what the military should do. She is always right, no matter what. They should have just killed Conor off in the last book. The character he is in this book just clashes with everything he was before.

The second thing that irritated me was the forgotten knowledge. When we first come into contact with the Ryklars we learn a few things. This was in the first book. That they are more intelligent than any other creatures on the world and can set traps. That they can hide their body heat. Active signals from the ruins attract Ryklars. All of this information is just gone. It should probably be common knowledge for anyone that is exploring ruins, but it is a surprise to the characters. They also gave the Ryklars some emotions, which was new, but possibly explainable. So when they do something that is strange and might have activated a ruin or sent out a pulse, what would think might happen. All the Ryklar are coming? Nope, our young heroes think that it is nothing, but yay we should go explore this new ruin that has a signal. That is genius. The amount of stupidity is bad. No common sense at all.

I have plenty more to complain about in this story, but I will just say that I do not recommend it. If you read the first three books I recommend you stop there.

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## **Trish R. says**

I can see where all the complaints came from about this book. If the book hadn't been in my iPad I would have thrown it across the room every time Lenora opened her mouth. God, she was so irritating. And in the first 3 books I loved Connor but in this one he was such a pussy. And DASH! I just wanted him to die, but he was a MC so that wasn't going to happen.

I have no idea what KL had in mind when he wrote this book but it will be a miracle if I finish it. I'm at 68% and I'm so tired of Connor, Lenora and Dash. The Ryklars should kill them all. (Okay, that was a little harsh.)

Anyway, I did finish it and it was barely okay, not anywhere as good as the first three books. It really isn't even worth telling you about the story.

No sex and no swearing to speak of.

As to the narration: Scott Aiello did a fantastic job on all four books.

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## **Tech Lucky says**

I was really hoping Dash and the ever so annoying Lenora would get killed.

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## **Maria Rose says**

### **Looking forward**

In this novel, Connor is no longer in the military but developing a skill in studying the NIES plus trying to map out the continent better. Lenora is head of these studies and teaches all the young almost adults who come to the Sanctuary. Of this group, Dash is the most promising with his high intelligence, but he has a recklessness to ignore protocol when seeking approval for expeditions.

I read a few reviews of this novel, before I started my reading, so I am going to address certain issues. One Lenora and Connor have some disagreements but they were still learning how to be a couple and I didn't see that relationship being problematic. Yes, Dash was a bit impulsive and impatient but he learned the hard way that he needed to be prepared, as he did try to protect his group against the environment when their C-cat vehicle crashed.

What I found the most interesting was the information found in translating the NIES console symbols concerning the Rhyars and their use as a defense force controlled by signal. Plus additional map details were found with more installations to explore. This was a quick read.

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## **Jed says**

### **40% needs cut**

The story is decent, but there are so many worthless details that make the story drag along. They're on a new world with alien tech and yet pages are spent talking about how some college kids make a presentation. Then there's the believability problems. Networked outpost with all different information? Inexplicable city defenses that only shoot down some aircraft? Using an armored drone as a bullet? They have guns. Why would they do that?

Generally the premise is decent. This book needs a serious content editor and a lot of the fluff cut out of it. Also, the descriptions are very abrupt. You get little sense of the characters' emotional and physical responses during tense portions of the book. Just choppy sentences.

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## **Page Zaplendam says**

### **Sooo frustrating**

I pretty much hated Lenora and wanted to drop kick her to the curb for being willing to place archaeological research over human lives in the face of a credible threat, and for taking Dash's side (who acted like an immature little punk in need of a\$\$ kicking), over Connor's. And so I was frustrated when on top of that Connor apologized to her (???!!!!) like a complete putz, so not manly. Sooo frustrating. Too frustrating, even though it was realistic and made for plot tension. Connor should have shut her and her mouth and her witch mode down, and he didn't. Can't stand the idealistic scientist types who don't give a damn for the practical exigencies of life.

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## **Jim says**

You would have thought that the end of this series was in the last book. The New Earth Colony had just defeated the Vemus and in doing so, just about destroyed their new world. The Vemus, as you'll recall, were mutated humans that no longer were human. Still, they somehow traveled many lightyears from a destroyed Earth to find the only colony of humans left in the galaxy. General Connor Gates, a former Special Operations Commander, was instrumental in defeating the Vemus and almost lost his life in doing so. He and the Colonial Defense Force were the defenders of the Colony in their desperate time of need.

Now peace has come or so everyone believes. New Earth isn't necessarily a friendly planet. There are plenty of wild animals or lifeforms that can and would easily kill colonists if they didn't pay attention. Yet, as the peace continues and nothing major happens, the colonists kind of forget that they are not completely out of danger. One particular New Earth predator that hasn't been around much until lately is the Ryklars. These are vicious beasts, genetically altered by the original New Earth inhabitants to kill. They usually hunt other animals and mostly stay away from the colonial settlements. Except recently, something has stirred them up and they are migrating closer to the human settlements.

The majority of New Earth colonists are engaged in one of two things; rebuilding what they had before the Vemus attack or exploring their largely unexplored world. There is also a third group, the Colonial Defense

Force soldiers, but they are not given much attention since they've had nothing to do in almost eight years now. Most of the colony's funding goes toward rebuilding, but some has filtered down to the archeologist who want and need to do field research on New Earth Indigenous Intelligent Species or NEIIS, for short. These archeologist and those who want to become archeologist are chomping at the bit to get into the field and find out just who the NEIIS were. They have discovered a lot from existing sites, but they know there is much more to learn. Still, with the problem of dangerous predators roaming the planet, field teams have been restricted to only going with a CDF escort.

Dash DeWitt is an up and coming, very eager, future archeologist. He works for Dr. Lenora Bishop, but he also works for himself most of the time. He has convinced a group of his fellow students or archeologist-in-training to go with him to explore a potentially new NEIIS site. Of course, this is exactly the wrong thing to do, but Dash doesn't believe rules and regulations apply to him. He's seen Dr. Bishop break the rules so why can't he? Well, the reason he shouldn't is that he's not smart enough to know what could possibly go wrong and usually, with him, everything possible does go wrong.

Connor Gates has retired from the military and is working with Dr. Bishop as a semi-archeologist. He's out in the field looking for NEIIS power sources, but, unlike Dash and his young group, Gates knows how to defend himself if trouble comes up. Dash is of the opinion that trouble is something other people experience and nothing will happen to him or his friends no matter what he decides to do.

So, this book is primarily about Connor Gates rescuing Dash DeWitt and his three companions, not once but twice. Each time, they get into more trouble and almost get killed. Only thing is, the Ryklars are the least to worry about. It seems some of the CDF soldiers have developed some serious mental problems dealing with peace and their lack of support. One team in particular has some pretty serious mental cases that need to be attended to before it's too late. Unfortunately for Dash and his friends, it's now too late and what he thought were his rescuers turn out to be almost as bad as the Ryklars.

The book is well written, but it seems as if something is missing. I don't know how a planet like New Earth can support such a small population of humans. They have no industrial capacity even though they can 3D print some things, but the loss of ATVs and C-Cats should be a major problem. Dash and his idiot friends seem to think getting stuff destroyed isn't such a big deal. I don't know how New Earth replaces things, but it can't be easy. Even ammunition and weapons will become scarce at some point and we know that the CDF equipment is getting very old and worn out, but I don't see a way of replacing that stuff. That's something that will have to eventually be explained in future books, I hope.

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## **Steven Brown says**

### **An engaging read that is a little bit more down to earth, or New Earth.**

I wavered between giving this a 4 and a 5 and had to give it a 4 because some parts of the story pulled me out slightly though there was a lot of interesting things going on to keep my attention. It is told from multiple third person limited point of views and does seem shorter than some of the other books. The writing style is crisp and without any notice for editing errors. The storytelling is clear and has a way of pulling you into the story chapter by chapter. Unlike the previous two books which focused on the threat from the outside this one comes back down to New Earth and the unexplored planet they live on. It opens up a little bit more about the previous residence and sets the seeds for future stories.



What I enjoyed most about the story was how the character of Connor has progressed since the end of book 3. We see him coming to terms with his life and enjoying it as well. I really did like the frontier feel of the story. This is a story less about interstellar danger and it is about the alien wilderness and those who are trying to recover from past events. It was interesting to see that the military part of the Sci-Fi was lessened in a degree when it comes to action but still a large part of a story in more emotional and tragic ways.

Okay time for a mini rant. The reason this got only four stars was because of the character of Dash. He was more than slightly annoying as well as the way some of the characters excused his behavior. Well he was written to be a bit immature with a strong desire to explore yet I felt that his character was stubbornly idiotic. It really comes down to the fact that while an author can write a character to be annoying and immature sometimes having to spend time around such a character can bring the story down. The immature part was the fact that the character never really admits to throwing himself and others into dangerous situations just because of a little bit of inconvenience. This was glossed over a bit and I just really didn't like that section. It's like excusing a genius teenager who decides it's perfectly okay to explore Yellowstone national Park without a guide or protection when it has been announced that a rabid pack maybe around. I don't care how curious or smart the teenager is it's stupid. There is hope for the character but I do feel that it is a glaring weakness in the storytelling that the character's flaws were never addressed. If they were I would have definitely given this a five star rating.

I am looking forward to book 5 of the series and I have noticed a trend of the books getting slightly shorter and more to the point. It makes it a fast read and the series goes by pretty quickly. It does lose a little bit when it comes down to the extras you get with longer stories. Still the style works and it's perfect for Kindle unlimited.

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### **Mark says**

A very good series. Not one of the best I have read of all time, but an enjoyable and engaging read.

All books center around Connor Gates, a veteran of earth special forces sent (without consulting him) to earth's first extra-solar colony.

Books 1 and 4 center on mysteries centering on "New Earth" and what remains of its previous intelligent indigenous life form.

Books 2 and 3 focus on attacks from Earth resulting from a plague that consumes earth post-colony ship departure.

All books are well paced, fun, and I would assume the door is open for more if the author has a mind to write more.

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### **Linda says**

This series is just mediocre no matter how you cut it. You can do better, but it might keep you entertained.

Dash and Lenora are just silly. Lenora is an idiot in all the books, but I'm not a guy. Maybe she is some fantasy woman. This book is fine. Each one has a very different plot, but each book is also very similar. There are few descriptions. If you put your mind to it, you could endlessly question. Conner is pretty likable and plays the part of the hardened soldier with a heart. What the heck. If you made through three of the books, there is no reason to stop now.

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