



UnArcana Stars

Glynn Stewart

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A humanitarian mission into unfriendly stars

A training cruise under the watch of a fortified fleet base

The closing jaws of a trap years in the making

It has been over a year since the UnArcana Worlds of the Protectorate of the Mage-King of Mars seceded, shattering the unity of the human race. The new Republic of Faith and Reason has raised new banners in defiance of the power of the Protectorate's Mage aristocracy.

Now, Hand Damien Montgomery commands a relief mission to a Republic world ravaged by famine. His humanitarian mission collides with a newborn military beginning to flex its muscles--and a newborn nation prepared to accept no violations of its sovereignty, regardless of their needs.

Elsewhere, disaster strikes the Nia Kriti Fleet Base as an earthquake shatters their only communication with the rest of the Protectorate. Officer-in-training Roslyn Chambers is in the middle of the recovery effort when she realizes Nia Kriti is under attack.

The Republic is done with peace. They are coming for the Protectorate--and they will see the fleets of Mars break!

UnArcana Stars Details

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Author : Glynn Stewart

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From Reader Review UnArcana Stars for online ebook

John Piper says

I loved this book! The Starship's Mage universe is by far one of my favorites! I read this book in one sitting, I just couldn't put it down! The characters draw you in, and are so enthralling! Glynn is such a great writer, and the dialog in this book just shines! I loved the addition of Persephone! I can't wait for the next book! I highly recommend checking this series out! You will love it!

Joel R Carpenter says

Scratches that Starship's Mage itch.

I love this series. I don't think I've written a review for any of these novels yet, so let's get that out of the way. I read roughly 60 Sci-Fi and Fantasy novels a year and this series has been a favorite since I picked up the first book.

As to this book in particular, I read the previous book right when it came out and then haven't touched the series since then, so it had been a while and I was a little hazy on where we were at in the story. However, even with that in mind, this book completely delivered on my expectations. If you're a fan, pick it up. If you're new to the series, dive in. It's well worth the read.

Tiuri says

As far as I'm concerned, there will never be too many books in this series and they can't be written fast enough. This brings together many people from the earlier books and it's a pleasure catching up with them and Damien.

Patrick Barnes says

Awesome mages

The MC continues to hold my attention and the reintroduction of characters from his past is handled well. The action and the dialogue show the characters in new lights.

The Hands of Mars stand out more because of the wartime power they wield. There is mystery tech fueling the enemy efforts, the impact of which the Martian Fleet are experiencing at every encounter. It's a real naval roller coaster with the promise of more to come. I really like this series.

Shane Jardine says

Originally posted at www.archeddoorway.com

While I was excited to see this book released earlier this month I was really hesitant to actually pick it up and read it. I've been a fan of Glynn Stewart's Starships Mage books since I stumbled across them on Amazon years ago but I didn't really enjoy the Red Falcon spinoff trilogy he wrote and was a bit worried that was going to continue with this new follow-up series. Happily, that was not the case and I can say that UnArcana Stars was a fun and action-packed read that I was unable to put down once I had started reading it.

UnArcana Stars may feature an ensemble cast of characters with numerous viewpoints, I was happy to see that Damien Montgomery took center stage for a good chunk of the book. While the ending of Judgement Of Mars may not have been a complete cliffhanger it did leave me with many questions and concerns so I was happy to see that they would finally start getting addressed. Damien Montgomery is also just one of my all time favorite characters and the main reason why I enjoy this series as much as I do.

That's not to say that there was anything wrong with the rest of the characters. I don't think there was a single viewpoint I disliked in this entire book and the story itself was fantastic. We finally get to see what it means for a Hand to go to war and it is epic. I almost feel bad for the Republic by the end of UnArcana Stars.

The only real issue I had with this book was how much time was spent describing the various weapons and ammunition of every ship that makes an appearance. I know this is supposed to be a story about starships going to war but it honestly felt a bit too much like gun porn at times to me and I had to just skim over some of the descriptions. The detail of the battles was excellent but I could have done without a recap of every ship's weapon capacity every few chapters. There were also a few minor story details that bothered me that I can't go into without spoiling parts of the story, which I won't do.

All in all though, I thought this was a well-written book with a great story and some really fantastic characters that I would highly recommend to anyone looking for something new to read. Though, I would recommend that anyone who hasn't done so start with the first book in the series or they will be completely lost. I'll definitely be rereading this book and I'm eagerly waiting for the audiobook to be available so that I can listen to the entire series again from the beginning.

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Henriette says

The sixth book marks the beginning of the war against Legatus. During a humanitarian mission into Legatus space, David notices a certain change in attitude. In the chapters to come various familiar faces from prior books will have encounters with parts of the Legatus fleet and scramble to get this information back to Mars, to confirm that Legatus has initiated the war without a declaration. The events of the book will then culminate in a stand that could determine the outcome of the war.

The book was quite the page turner, I read in about two days and was hardly able to put it down. And I really enjoyed seeing old faces again, e.g. this might be the first book in the main series since the Volume 1 that features David Rice. Gathering intelligence and getting that data back to Mars, as well as calling up on old friends and allies for help was really well done.

The reason I didn't rate it higher was mostly due to the high amount of space battles. I'm not a big fan of

those. When you watch a space battle on screen they can be quite suspenseful, especially if you have a small ship outmaneuvering a fleet such as in the asteroid scene in Empire Strikes Back. Then there are space battles that are designed after the conflict between naval vessel such as in the Star Trek Universe. These are similar to the ones in Starship Mage, as the Enterprise crew calls out their maneuvers including evasive ones.

However, the Starship Mage battles feel more like playing the game Battleship. The fleets stand on opposite sides, the crew starts endless stats at you from speed to armament, and then they just fire missiles at each other and try to shoot down the opposing missiles before they get hit. Most of the time I completely zonked out, when they started calling out those stats and the actual battles weren't much more engrossing. So and so many missiles got through, so many vessels were lost, etc. And unfortunately, there are a lot of space battles in this book.

Still, there is an interesting cliffhanger at the end, I still like the characters and I will read the seventh book as well. Only hopefully it will greatly reduce the number of space battles.

Waverly says

THIS is how you do it: Stewart delivers an exciting and well-written book that marks a turning point in the Damien Montgomery series. The author shifts between character points of view effectively, with excellent pacing. The Hand series involves hard core space ships without tangling the plot up with technical specs -- in fact, the Protectorate finds itself up against the ropes because they are at a distinct tech disadvantage compared to the anti-magic star systems who now possess FTL capabilities and a stunningly overpowered fleet of warships. Ooo, I can't wait for the next book.

Jennifer says

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review. This was another good installment to the series, although it almost reads like the start of a new series and could be a good jumping in point for new readers. I especially liked how the author ties this book back to the spinoff series and brings in the characters from earlier books to bring it full circle. I can't wait for the next book.

Charlotte says

I Love This Series!!

At no time have I been let down by this series! It has it all: an entire cast of individual characters who come together to make a brilliant story come alive; an MC that exemplifies honour, integrity and courage without losing that human touch of endearing awkwardness around that someone special to him; action galore that crosses the vastness of space; and magic that blends with and enhances the science of the future. I'm definitely, definitely, impatient for the next instalment!

Milan says

Finally a new book with Damien Montgomery who is probably my favorite out of all of Stewarts characters. I liked that so many characters returned in this one and I'm really looking forward to the next novel.

Curtis says

WAR.

It's been a while since we last saw Damien, and having been used to his often OP antics it is a bit a shock to see him so... diminished here. It is however completely reasonable and more humanizing though to find him more dependent on others, and nursing himself back to health after his last major act. This gives us a chance to see him more tactical and less direct - though there is still a lot of action going on. We also get to visit with past characters to see how they're doing, and we get to see it all against a backdrop of war. I can't help but feel like this is a brief pause before things get really crazy again. Lots of tactical and naval activity here, but it doesn't hinder. A good story. Recommended. (You might want to re-read the previous book before reading this one.)

Susan Lindberg says

The best so far

I like this series, but it had started to get a bit too dependent on Damien Montgomery's excess of power. But now, Damien is hurt, Legatus is stronger than anyone expected, and the entire Martian navy is on the back foot for basically the entire book. It isn't too much to say that this is "The Empire Strikes Back" of the series.

Suz says

3+ stars.

Generally I enjoy this series quite a lot. The editing issues of the earlier books has been rectified and you don't see much of that anymore. I was very much looking forward to this entry in the series and, in many ways, it was a bit of a game changer. I'll absolutely read the next one. I'm looking forward to it, in fact.

Why 3 instead of 4 then? I don't care for teaser endings and this one has one. Also, there was a significant amount of "gun porn" regarding the ships and armament and that's not really my thing.

Otherwise, I enjoyed this story a lot and I'm happy that the series continues.

Melissa Jane says

The only issue with this book is not enough of Damien Montgomery. I kept skimming through the other POV'S to reach his and having to go back so I didn't miss anything. I am loving this series and believe anyone that loves space operas and magic books will enjoy them being combined from such a great author. Try it, you won't regret it.

Sven says

This is probably the most space opera-like of all the Starship mage books. Interstellar fleets slugging it out is usually a good time and that is very much the case here.

Unfortunately, there are some aspects that didn't quite work out how I think they were intended to, at least for this reader. Like the enthusiastic attempt to get most of the people from Damien's backstory involved in the events of this book. A certain pattern quickly emerges where women from his past are worked in with as captains of ships with plotcentric roles. More than even Damein himself at times. Which comes across as super weird.

The first time I was like "Sure. Ok, I guess."

The second time it was more of a "Huh?" reaction

The third time I was kind of just like "Wait. Which ex-girlfriend is this?"

It's a problem but when the book is working around Damien it still works. But this is treated much more like a multiperspective thing. Telling as much, or more of the story, through them as him. Which is really weird because as a reader I don't really have any attachment to any of them because of how indistinct they all are. Then there is a little crossover thing with characters who I assume are in the spinoff of the first book. Who the book presumes you know and are interested in despite having never seen any of them except in the very first book in this series. Basically, when Damien is doing his thing it's good. When it's somebody else it's less good.

Also there is a cat thing that is just odd. Damien has this kitten and yet as dire things are going on around him everybody stops and is like "Awww, he's so cute!". Which completely contrasts with the militant and dire tone. Which works as like a joke at first but conversations shift to that cat to a bizarre degree.

So, overall, an enjoyable space opera if you can overlook some less than ideal perspective and tonal choices.
