



Relic of Sorrows

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Captain Alisa Marchenko finally has a lead on finding her daughter, but her passengers want her to take them on their quest instead. Even though the *Star Nomad* is her ship, they have power she cannot fight, and she finds herself with no choice but to accept another detour.

But the ancient relic they seek has the ability to destroy worlds and is coveted by many. The path leading to it is riddled with competitors and littered with the dead, and even a cyborg and a Starseer may not be strong enough to fight the obstacles in the way.

Swept up in a fate she never chose, Alisa must find a way to survive against impossible odds, knowing that if her passengers succeed, they will change the course of history—maybe not for the better.

Relic of Sorrows Details

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From Reader Review Relic of Sorrows for online ebook

Jamila says

my fav so far <3 this was INSANELY good

Dan says

Another solidly enjoyable read in this light science fiction series.

Cyd O says

Alisa seriously needs to put her foot down – but what can a girl do? The man with the mind control powers seems to hold all the cards, especially when his destination, if not his mission, is the same as the druid's. The mystery of the dead ship on the way to the middle of nowhere leaves the crew and passengers of the Star Nomad befuddled, and the answer to the question of why there seems to be nothing at the coordinates to which they are led is surprising.

The Fallen Empire series has been a fun read from the beginning, but it gets more complex and exciting as it goes along. I love that the author has kept certain characters, even though they are perfectly unlikable and contentious. These characters also gain depth, and add an interesting element to the storyline, as well as to the relationships between the original members of the group.

I have been a fan of Ms. Buroker's work since I picked up the first The Emperor's Edge Emperor's Edge novel, and have voraciously read all of her other works since. This space opera series is a departure from her usual steam punk fare, and I love it. I do have to say, however, that if you're looking for "hard core sci-fi" with a bunch of *science-y stuff*, iron the wrinkles out of your undies and enjoy it anyway! This is light-hearted reading with fun and fascinating characters, space travel, and tongue-in-cheek humor.

Lindsay Buroker has a reputation for creating fun, snarky characters, and Alisa Marchenko fits the bill – though I have to say that I think the engineer is a bowl full of irreverence herself, and I love it. Relic of Sorrows is a great weekend read – but I have to admit I couldn't wait until the weekend, and read it in bed until I fell asleep on my tablet. **WORTH IT!**

Ornella (Nyx) says

[As an aro/ace this book was a rollercoaster of emotions for me. When we found out what was Leonidas' problem I thought it was just the usual ED, but as it turns out the Empire basically made them aces! (asexuals; people who d

Llaph | No Frill | No Shill says

I just wanted to preface this with Ms. Buroker is awesome and I have loved pretty much everything I've read of hers over the years and adore how she writes in a few different genres.

Everyone should try one of her books at one point in their lives....

Leonidas is bad ass, I love the action scenes. The extra star seer surprises were ... surprising and I look forward to seeing how things will unfold now that this part of the mission has been completed.

liirogue says

I have read the first four books in this series in 5 days, and I'm having to physically restrain myself from launching into the fifth book. I love the characters, the pace is fast, and I'm completely hooked.

Hannah says

Relic of Sorrows continues the upwards trend that started in the previous book, in large part thanks to the addition of Abelardus to the team and the reappearance of Commander Tomich. I find myself liking both of them in spite of some questionable incidents - is it too much to ask for them to become official members of the Good Guys? Pretty please? In fact, for about 70% of the book, I was ready to elevate Abelardus and his surprisingly fun self to the top of my favorite character list and was delighted that he'd (view spoiler). And then it all fell apart, of course, but I still hold out hope that Abelardus and Tomich will both come through. They're some of the most interesting characters in the cast thus far.

Which leads me to our protagonist, Alisa, whom I'm unfortunately liking *less* with each book. I definitely don't dislike her and she has her charming moments, but she so often gives me second-hand embarrassment with her questionable choices and immature comments that I almost wish she *was* as similar to Amaranthe as she'd initially appeared in the first book.

I thought I'd find less to cringe about once there were more significant romantic developments and Leonidas began openly reciprocating feelings (it was bound to happen), but apparently *not*. I wanted to drop my face into my hands and weep every time Alisa either made suggestive comments or actually jumped Leonidas ((view spoiler), which just made it more embarrassing), because it screamed of a desperation that did not befit a widow of... 6 months? Who is supposed to be on a race-against-time mission to save her kidnapped daughter, by the way, and is also Leonidas' would-be employer. Leonidas is sweet, and his desire to protect her as well as extremely rare expressions of jealousy or possessiveness are cute, however, so hopefully things are looking up.

Plot-wise, we have more major (interesting) reveals about Alisa and her connection to the Starseers, Alejandro's mission and her daughter's kidnapper. While I wouldn't call this a cracking pace, I'm happy with the way things are going. The only improvement on the story front that I still find myself fervently wishing for is Alejandro's early demise - but I doubt I'll be granted that wish!

Kay Dee says

another terrific series by Lindsay Buroker!

this one will rank as number 2 in my love of her series and characters.
buy the books! read the books! love the books!

the main characters, Alisa and Leonidas, remind me soooooooooooooo very much of Armanthe and Sicarious from The Emperor's Edge Collection

first the women

both women's name start with an A (wish they didn't. since they are so similar, it's a lil confusing.)
both women are tall and can fight and are the leaders of their ragtag bunch
both are witty but Alisa is funnier. she has made me LOL so very many times (and i am on book 6)
both women are attracted to men who are lethal killing machines and none of the crew or eveyday folks they meet gets why that is
both wore uniforms- Alisa- military, Armanthe - local law enforcement
both come up with crazy schemes to get out of hairy situations or to fulfill their missions
both prefer not to kill on their missions or in self defense but will do so when necessary
both have staff that they are paying with hopes & dreams and sometimes money.

the men are similar as well

both are extraordinary and not like normal men
both have lethal fighting and killing skills that the average man cannot defend against
both don't express feelings very well
both are hated and feared by the majority of the population because of what they did by order of their king/emperor
both have looks that make them stand out in a crowd
both are very smart as well in other areas not just fighting, combat, killing, and war strategy.
both soften up and trade barbs with the women and come to care about them
both have this honorable streak to do whatever is necessary to help their kingdom, empire and the young boy emperor/king
both train the rest of the team

similarities in the plots

both have a government that is in turmoil and restarting
both have magicians/psychics with powers like telepathy and telekinesis, that are feared/hated by the mundane folks (she calls them mundanes in both worlds. also it a lil confusing at times)
both keep getting into trouble with all members of the various factions fighting for control of the government even though they don't mean to
both have a team of folks with various skillz that are need for their adventures
both have folks on their team wanted by gang/mafia
both have folks on their team that can cook really well
both have folks wanted by local governments
both never really get a rest from the fighting, scheming, or running away from folks trying to kill them
both make jokes even when they are in the midst of battle
both have favor with the enemy and are let go when they should be arrested or captured or killed
both are VERY lucky and escape many times by the skin of their teeth thanks to some other event that happens at the same time
both have a young heir to the throne
both remind me very much of some of my favorite tv shows which just so happen to be someof lindsay's favorite tv shows like macgyver, stargate sg-1, a-team, BSG, star trek NG, star wars, Firefly (esp firefly cuz space and old ship and rebels and war and snotty doctor and well like so much) etc.
both convinced me to buy more books.

i mean, i didn't even use my gift card to buy the anthologies (Beyond the Stars: New Worlds, New Suns: A

Space Opera Anthology and You Are Here - Tales of Cartographic Wonders) with short stories related to this series or the trilogy that continues this series with the kids as the MC's (The Rogue Prince, Angle of Truth, Stolen Legacy)!!!!

this series also reminds me of the chains of honor series in that both have some things that are in the plot that make me roll my eyes. either a character's inner monologue is way too immature and doesn't match up with how they have acted previously. or characters do something stupid when they have been brilliant in the rest of the story. or they don't fully utilize their lethal men and magician/psychic which would help them avoid major trouble. but like with chains of honor the rest of the story and characters are enjoyable enough to overlook these things and continue on reading. cuz they are FUN!

buy the books! read the books! love the books!

Hmr28 says

Another excellent installment in this series. One month till the next one!

Denise says

Once again, Alisa's quest to find her missing daughter is delayed by the demands of her passengers, now including a Starseer she'd very much like to see the back of if he might not be the one person able to find out Jelena's whereabouts. But first, she must take them on what might easily prove to be no more than a wild goose chase, a trip to coordinates in the middle of nowhere that might maybe possibly perhaps hold the secrets to retrieving the powerful ancient relic Alejandro has been searching for - a relic Alisa is convinced should stay lost rather than end up in the hands of any who would use its power to start another war.

Unfortunately, it turns out the crew and passengers of the Star Nomad aren't the only ones chasing this particular undomesticated fowl, because for an empty region of space it has certainly attracted a suspiciously large number of other ships on the hunt for the Starseer relic...

Fast-paced, action-packed fun as usual, with some interesting new bits of information about Alisa's backstory and more strewn in. Also: Yay, Alisa and Leonidas are finally getting somewhere in the will-they-won't-they dance they've been engaged in over the past couple of books! So, next book in August? Sign me up!

Mike says

Another entertaining entry in this space-opera series, full of the banter that's such an enjoyable feature of Lindsay Buroker's books:

"Any trouble?"

"Nothing I can't handle," Alisa said.

"Or exacerbate," Leonidas murmured.

Or:

"It's never too early to be pessimistic."

Apart from an occasional "may" instead of "might" in past-tense narration, the editing is excellent, as usual.

I am starting to feel that the issue that's driving the main character - the search for her daughter - isn't driving her hard enough, or leading to as much conflict as it could between pilot Alisa and her annoying and difficulty-causing passengers. She goes along a little too easily with their agendas, even when that distracts from her own quest, serves the cause that she fought against, and sets her in opposition to her own former side. It seems like a case of plot starting to drive character behaviour, rather than arising from clear character motivations. Hopefully that will start to change in the later books in the series; I turn to these whenever I'm ho-hum about other books in my reading queue and need something reliably entertaining.

Deborah Beaumont says

Love this series.

I love this series and can't wait for book 5. The author keeps things interesting. Easy reading and fun. Wonder what their next adventure will be.

Tim Seabrook says

A great read continuing the saga of the small band of mismatched crew and passengers on the Star Nomad as they're drawn into another perilous mission for the Staff of Lore, the last original staff of the Starseers.

Captain Alisa Marchenko is drawn even further into the conflict and search for this strange artifact, the crew placed in danger from a new enemy and the Alliance proving to be as distrustful as the old Empire used to be.

Having a starseer on board from their last adventure, who regularly causes friction between various crew members and especially with Leonidas adds to the melting pot and then just when there seems to be a way to escape being embroiled things take another turn...

Another well written book in the Fallen Empire series, and the lives of the characters are developing well with more details being revealed about their pasts that help bring both understanding and for some, closer together

David P. Duffy says

Fabio In Space Syndrome?

Book 4, "Relic of Sorrows," continues the series of "Fallen Empire." It's in the main still entertaining and well written. The writing skill set is there, as well as both editing and proofreading. What is also there unfortunately, is the diminishing of the storyline and plot, replaced by the "Fabio" syndrome-intrepid and interesting heroine character, obsessing over male muscles. The story deserves better and frankly, it appears to be a lazy method of writing.

The female/male banter is great, when it enhances dimensions of characterizations (Tracy-Hepburn, Bogart-Bacall/Hepburn, Powell-Loy: interplay of intelligence, humor, romance, attraction, strength, and tension) but, not if it marginalizes the main story. Lead character is a newly widowed, combat pilot, war vet, mother, whose eight (8) year old daughter has been kidnapped. The lack of urgency in the quest to save her daughter is astonishing. Any parent, but especially one who is combat tested, would never, never have such a cavalier attitude, while their child was in harm's way. This glaring flaw made the rating a coin flip between 2 or 3 stars.

It's disappointing, as the previous books, and even this one are entertaining. The storylines and plots are becoming too shallow.

Book 4 is narrowly recommended.

Read fully via Kindle Unlimited.

Anna says

It's not often that I'm still fan-girling by book four of the series. What's even less frequent? When I decide to break my ban on unnecessary emails and sign up for the author's email list just so I can download a free novella.

Relic of Sorrows is the book that broke both rules. It's a solid addition to the series, providing more of what we already loved --- the reluctant comradeship of an unlikely crew, the space adventures, the fun world-building reminiscent of Star Wars but more interesting. (Of *course* the Jedis would actually be semi-bad guys with those mind powers!)

But then Buroker took it up a notch with a very unconventional romantic hurdle and a scarily good external dilemma (complete with maybe-good/maybe-bad antagonist).

In the end, I was left craving more, more, more! I can hardly wait for book five.
