



Kris Longknife's Assassin

Mike Shepherd , Mike Moscoe

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Kris Longknife killed Vicky Peterwald's brother. So Vicky will kill Kris Longknife. Or try.

Raised in the shadow of her brother Hank, Vicky now finds herself heir to the Peterwald Empire and hell bent on killing Kris Longknife. When that doesn't work out, she finds herself shipped off to the Greenfeld Navy as a boot ensign. There she learns she can solve problems without taking her clothes off, and really feel good about it! When Kris Longknife crosses Vicky's path again, Vicky is ready to help her save Vicky's dad's life.

Kris Longknife's Assassin is a long novella, just 50 words short of 40,000 words. It tells the story from Vicky's perspective of her first run ins with Kris Longknife as well as Vicky's apprenticeship under Admiral Krätz. It will give the reader a good run up to Vicky Peterwald – Target coming from Ace June 24.

Also included is a sneak preview of the first four chapters of Vicky Peterwald – Target.

Kris Longknife's Assassin Details

Date : Published May 31st 2014 by GCU Press (first published January 1st 2014)

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Author : Mike Shepherd , Mike Moscoe

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From Reader Review Kris Longknife's Assassin for online ebook

Jean says

This is a novella that looks at the attempted assassination of Kris Longknife on New Eden by Vicky Peterwald. But this short story provides us with the viewpoint of Vicky. In prior books in the Longknife series we had the same information from Kris's viewpoint. This story includes the death of Hank Peterwald by Kris. The story also tells a background story about Vicky and how she ends up as an Ensign in the Peterwald navy under Captain Kratz. Vicky's brief time in boot camp is also covered.

From what I gather this is an introduction to a new spin off series about Vicky Peterwald. Hopefully Shepherd will create some interesting characters around Vicky as he has around Kris. I shall watch and see what develops with the new series; but Shepherd will need to get rid of or tone down the sex to keep me as a reader of this new series. I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Dina Pearlman narrated the book.

Megh says

I didn't enjoy this much. I had a hard time fitting it into the time line, since it's billed as book 3, but it was good. Once I had it sorted in the time line it did help with understanding/appreciating Vicky's story arc more fully. However it was a bit choppy and was definitely a novella. It relies heavily on the reader being very familiar with the Kris Longknife books that happen at the same time. For me it's been years since I read those books, so I had a hard time getting the full impact of Vicky's side of the story. I didn't hate it but wouldn't necessarily recommend it.

Tim says

Interesting and generally well told spinoff novella from the Kris Longknife universe. This retells some familiar episodes from the Longknife stories, only this time we're in Vicky Peterwald's shoes, which gives us an interesting and "opposite" perspective. Vicky starts off on New Eden trying to avenge the death of her brother, by hiring assassins to kill Kris. Of course we already know she fails, and after two more attempts she's shipped off back to Greenfeld space, and from there dumped as a lowly ensign in the navy.

Generally fast paced and well plotted, this is everything the following full novel - Target - fails to be.

But it loses stars for sloppy newbie errors. Minus 1 star for poor layout and formatting. Minus 1 star for lack of editing & proofreading. The number of typos and other grammatical problems is astonishingly large. Someone who has been trad published really should know better. Minus 1 star for polluting 20% Yes SERIOUSLY **20%** of the book's space with promo material for the next one.

Ria Loader says

What a lovely read. I liked the transformation from spoiled socialite to person who makes an impact in the

world. Well written, good character development, and good appearances from characters we've come to love.

Barry says

Nice novella in the Kris Longknife oeuvre. Story of enemies becoming allies and even perhaps friends.

Anand Chelian says

This was a bit of a repress, including bits from other Kris Longknife and Vicky Peterwald novels, with a healthy dose of new material in the middle. It fleshes out a character and a relationship that is mentioned in the other novels, and I think it does it reasonably.

I'm not entirely happy that it is a bit of a pain to obtain, but overall, not a bad addition to the series.

Laz the Sailor says

Partly because I've read these out of order, this felt like a prequel that didn't really add much to the Longknife universe. Several scenes retraced events in Kris Longknife's life from Vicky Peterwald's perspective - mainly those where Vicky tries to kill Kris. Mildly interesting to see this, but both Vicky and the writing mature in the later books. The author doesn't quite know how to write about a slutty vixen, yet.

Alex says

When I stumbled upon Target I wasn't aware it's a spin-off of a much larger series, and it interested me enough that I added Jump Universe to my to-read list...

I really like the general approach to military SF/"new" space opera I'm seeing so far, author could have done what almost everyone else is doing: start with Napoleonic Wars, take complex and often unsavoury politics and diplomacy of the time to the rubbish bin, turn it into "plucky little island against big mean JACOBINS" Manichean struggle, slap together some rationale for boarding cutlasses and broadsides, add in a stand-in for Jack Aubrey or Horatio Hornblower as a protagonist and call it a day.

But that's not what the author did. What we have here is more of a Cold War/early post-Soviet political situation taken as a model. Wardhaven are good guys, but mostly because while they have some skeletons in their political closets, their rivals put them in display cases. Ships use more or less plausible tactics that isn't a carbon copy of anything wet navies ever did and whatever else the protagonists are, they're no Hornblowers. Especially Vicky. She's smart (or rather cunning,) she clearly has fighting spirit, but she isn't some kind of nautical prodigy. Just decent. She's much better at cloak-and-dagger, once her arrogance is literally beaten out of her. And while this and the next book is about her understanding the meaning of loyalty... She still can be callous and manipulative.

But, while I love the universe (and like Vicky not being a plaster saint) this novella is... Well... The way I understand it, the scenes with Kris in them are copy/paste search/replace jobs with little additional insight

into the way Vicky saw the events, and scenes not culled from other books are sometimes just... Silly. Like Vicky and Kratz reading Longknife's file, only to discover there's nothing interesting in it, so a promised explanation of how to tell apart where Kris was brilliant and where she was just lucky doesn't happen.

So, 4 stars are a MAJOR stretch... And I suspect only because I didn't get as far in the main series as to read the Longknife side of some of the same incidents. But I really like Vicky. Even if she's not someone you want to work with on a regular basis.

And yes, no softcore-porn sex scenes here, although Vicky being Vicky, sex happens.

Andrew says

It was good, a interesting take on a story i already knew from a different point of view...a good short side-prelude into a new series. It makes me want to read the Vicky books and you can see the spark of a great character waiting to be made.

Megh says

These are badly sorted, titled, and annotated. This book is actually something like .5 in the Vicky Peterwald spin off series in the Kris Longknife universe. I enjoyed this book, but due to the bad description and title had a hard time getting it straight in my understanding of the series timeline at first. This book adds some additional context to Vicky's growth in the series. Without this book the reader might think it was rather flat. It was a short listen, but enjoyable. Some other reviewers on Audible have complained of the sex in these books, but I found it to mostly be innuendo. It's not a bodice ripper by any stretch of the imagination.

Even says

I picked up the audio book of this and frankly I wish I hadn't. After about 5 minutes in to listening to it, I started to wonder what was I listening to.

I read a lot of varried work and I do try to give some wiggle room. Some stories start slow. This one...

Of the list of things I absolutly couldn't stand in the book:

The constant and I mean CONSTANT use of people's full names. Very rarely was someone refered to by their first name. I could understand if you were establishing identity at the start of a passage. A paragraph could start, "Kris Longknife did this" but the next one would be "blah blah and then Kris Longknife did that." Grated on my nerves.

The characters were two dimentional at best. Here's a woman who is seaking revenge for her brother but is always trying to get laid.

On top of that, the sex scenes themselves aren't that good. They're not even mechanically descriptive but more... suggestive. It's like listening to a guy at work talk about his weekend date. "So did you... you know?" and then "Oh yeah we did..."wink wink" the thing". It came off as jeuvinnelle and poorly written. Honestly, I

love a good sex scene same the next person. Check my reading list LOL. This was just bad.

Despite it being an audio version, the sentence construction leads me to believe (and verified by the various reviews of the story) that there were many grammatical errors.

I honestly don't know how this got past the editors desk. Given it's the #0.5 novella and introduction to the series I might give it pass. Maybe it was just an oversight and was rushed. But then I read the reviews for the following books and it seems that this is a common problem with this series.

All that aside, in the first 20% (which is about what I listened to) they had the main character Vicky hire two sets of assassins to kill Kris. The manor in which she goes about this is just hideous and difficult to listen to. Like a child's caricature of Veruca Salt freshly pulled off the fridge, Vicky stamps her feet and tries to get her way even in the middle of a high society ball.

I'm at a loss as I sit here writing this because honestly I just want my time back. I thought it was self published. That's how bad it was. The other main series may well be good. But I would steer clear of this one if I were you.

Alastar says

I really liked the story itself, however the preview chapters of Target left me with more answers than questions.

I am wondering about the time frame difference from the end of the story until the start of the preview. There are the usual missed typos, but not really all that important unless you are a grammar cop lol

Steven Allen says

I always feel guilty claiming these novellas as part of my reading challenge. Regrettably, the first half of this book is interesting as it is events from Vicky's perspective. Towards the end it a rehash of the previous Kris Longknife book so if you have read that then there is nothing new here.

Jonmontanavega says

Shepherd's Longknife series is showing its age and needs a shake-up

This novella takes encounters / confrontations between Princess Longknife and Princess Peterwald, which we'd already read (here is one: Intrepid) and re-tells them from Vicki Peterwald's perspective. Shepherd is at his best with a character to build; Vicki has some with which he works well. I don't know what the price of the novella is now, but if/when you find it palatable, buy it. The plot shaking worked.

The book could, I suppose, stand on its own, so if you haven't read a series about women with plenty of agency recently, try **Kris Longknife's Assassin**.

My disclaimer: I bought the book, don't know the author, and wasn't asked to review it.

Lisa says

So I snagged this book to try out Mike Shepherd's writing and it turns out he is not for me. Everything felt so overly-simplified. Like...this girl hates Kris Longknife, but make her suffer through bootcamp and shit and suddenly they're going to be palsies because her dead brother was an insufferable jerk after all? I mean, that could happen, but having all that happen in such a short space of reading time made it not believable to me.

Nothing else about the book really made it great. The science of war and space travel was meh. The constant descriptions about how beautiful the main character was and how hard it was on her was just annoying. The transition from her using her sex appeal to actual competence was, again, boring and more a listing of events than storytelling. And since I don't know anything about Kris Longknife (first time to the series), she was boring too. Maybe if I had started at the start of the Kris Longknife series I'd have happier things to say about everything, but I didn't and I don't.
