



First Contact

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Terran survey ship *Aurora* finds two habitable planets in an uncharted star system. But *Aurora* is disabled by gigantic alien warships and boarded by blue-skin females with fangs and claws. The warriors slaughter the crew in ritual one-on-one combat. The sole survivor is returned to Earth. This Messenger bears a real-time globe device that counts down to an impending attack.

That is the way of the Kreeelan Empire. For centuries before man have they waged war, seeking a prophesied savior. Soon to be extinct, the ancient species wages their last war, hoping for redemption of sins long past.

First Contact Details

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From Reader Review First Contact for online ebook

Ron says

Well done. I love first contact books, and this one took a different approach: an alien specie technologically far advanced over humans and not especially benign in their regard for lesser species.

Well organized and written, but the plot--especially saving the cast she wants to advance--is a but too obvious and too dependent on favorable coincidences. The word "miraculously" is over used, but indicative of this problem.

Sets up a series, this volume nonetheless manages to end neatly.

Pavel Lishin says

"The Bloodsong. It was an ethereal thing, unmeasurable by any instrument or technology"

If you want to write fantasy, just write fantasy. The Black Gate was also very handwavy, but this is just elves and wizards on a spaceship.

Missy LaRae says

4.5* for me.

This is the first book in the sweeping science fiction saga by Michael R. Hicks. Like Star Wars the story was originally written with books 4-5-6 written first and then books 1-2-3 being written. I read this one first because I like chronological stories, but then I mucked it all up by reading #4, Empire, right after this one.

Okay so a few weeks ago I picked up Mr. Hicks alien scifi story because he kindly had it up for free and I figured why not check it out right?? I was IMMEDIATELY in love with the story. Being former army I am all about stories with some real action as well as some crazy alien bitches as they're called time and time again.

The opening sequence starts out with a human vessel exploring the stars suddenly jumping into alien air space and being greeted by four bad ass alien war ships. Their craft is boarded and they're slaughtered until there are only 22 survivors (23?) left on the ship, and those are the ones who fought back. We're introduced to the brave human warriors one by one and Mr. Hicks does a good job of making them seem very real and relatable early on. Some of his descriptions were a little vague about the aliens but that just set the story up for the battle between the humans and the alien bitches in some sort of gladiator contest for honor In Her Name.

There is chosen a messenger to go back to the human world and tell them of the invasion of the Kreelan Empire, and Mr. Ichiro does just that.

The pace never lets up in this book and that's what I loved about it. It was ALL action, ALL the time. The author got me loving one character and then ya know what, sorry pal you gotta die. Bam! One of my favorite

characters in the book towards the end was a tank commander who was bad ass. However, instead of a glorious death in battle or even letting her live, no, she gets shredded by shrapnel.

The biggest pet peeve of mine and the only reason that I took 1/2 a star away was the use of - dashes - as pauses in the story line. There are cleaner ways to write and I thought they were unnecessary. Also there were sentences that were missing a word here, a word there, as if the editing was done, but it wasn't fully read out loud. Those technical mistakes were minuscule, but were the only reason for the star being taken away.

The book was fantastic. Awesome setting, great story telling, and you know what? I downloaded the rest in the series, and then I read #4,5,6 yesterday and today. SO GOOD.

Evgeny says

I am not sure it is really worth 4 or 3.5 stars, I will give it 4. I liked the book. Humans make a first contact with a race whose sole purpose of existence is to prove their superiority by wiping off all other life forms. I am simplifying things, but that is the general idea. Oh, and they have much superior technology. Can humans survive? The book has epic (and I do mean - epic) battles: in space and on planets. I really need to mention here the description and tension of space battles were among the very best I found in SF literature.

My only problem is: the main character in the book failed to make any positive impression from me. One more nitpick: why do humans lose more people in rescue operation than they actually rescue, and still consider such missions to be a great success?

tiffany says

This was a prequel to the series In Her Name: Empire. While it set the tone and background for the human and Kreelan war in the Empire trilogy, most of it was very technical and I found myself skipping through the pages of techno-babble because it was beyond my interest and ability to understand. I found myself reading on though to try to understand the Kreelans but I seem to feel a bitter aftertaste for them when I was done with First Contact. I felt as if the Kreelans are a very self-centered race, wanting everyone around the universe to fit into their mould, their Empire and sing their bloodsong. It's as if they cannot account for any cultural difference? I just can't relate to that. Additionally, what sort of Empress wants her people to die by the scores just to glorify her Name? How is battle, and a senseless selfish one at that, glorifying?

I finished the Empire trilogy empathising with Reza and Esah-Zhurah, and the entire Kreelan race - seeing in them virtues that are hard to find among mankind, even in reality. However, I finished First Contact, never wanting anything more to do with Kreelans.

Cyc says

This is the first book I read in the series, and now I cannot wait to grab the other 2 books and then the Redemption trilogy as well. It was hard to put it down. I had to force myself away from it so I could eat and sleep haha. The story moves along at a good pace. I did not find any parts of it to be dull, which a lot of books suffer from. It does a great job of continuously switching between the human side of the story and the

alien side, so you get both perspectives equally. The end of the free Kindle edition also includes the first chapter of the 2nd book, which I chose to skip since I plan to read the whole series.

Cameluta says

As the title of the book suggests, the action of "First Contact" is centered on the first encounter between humans and kreelans. And so, it is expected to have more battle scenes than the original series, and also to focus on the humans rather than the kreelans. This doesn't mean the kreelans are ignored ... we get more inside of their culture, "social organization", as well as their level of development. Also, we get to know better Tesh-Dar, the high priestess, to understand her powers and, by extension, Reza's powers from the original trilogy.

One thing that didn't feel quite right were the countless references to our present history. The action of the book takes place several centuries from now when, as expected, the actual boundaries, culture and political organization of the Earth will be different from what we know today. And still, all over the book everything is explained by referring to our present time. (If I talk to somebody about Austria or Hungary I simply say the country name and I do not state "which was part of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire two centuries ago"). Also, the book has a US centric view. However, for an international reader this can be annoying since the reader cannot connect with places and Terran army and president are from US. The same thing happened also in the fifth book "Legend of the Sword", and because of it I didn't enjoy the books as much as I wanted. Michael Hicks has a great writing style, and I hope he will find a way to fix this "bug" in the last book of the trilogy "Dead Soul".

Anissa says

This is the first installment in the In Her Name Trilogy & wider space saga. I came into this one knowing nothing but the summary description about the story. I've jumped into another lengthy scifi saga & will have to add this one to my series rotation. I liked it but I found there were a few problems in the beginning. First, early on, it's a bit repetitive in some ways. There would be a paragraph given about the Kreelan from their POV & then following would be the same information as the humans speculated or surmised it. Also, by the book summary, we know that there's only one survivor of the Aurora & pretty much who it is before we even get into depths of the story. For this reason, when I began reading, I was thinking that we would get to the survivor returning home to tell the story of what happened on the fateful meeting far sooner. Because that is not how the story plays out, I spent most of my time anticipating that actuality instead of being deeply riveted to what was unfolding in the moment. The summary information really takes away a lot of what could be great suspense in the battles because you know the humans aren't going to be victorious. The majority of the human characters were fairly pale in comparison to the Kreelan. As they were being dispatched at a pretty good clip, I didn't really get too attached to them. About 25% in, we're through all that & the story picks up & soars.

I'm a sucker for all the political drama you have to have in wide sweeping interstellar space stories, so I quite enjoyed all of that. I found it believable & was simply impressed with the number of characters that were juggled. Even though I didn't feel terribly deeply for any individual in particular (except Patty Coyle, she was my favorite character) I did feel for humanity as they embarked on this struggle. As main characters go, Ichiro Sato & Steph were not terribly interesting or at least not in any way that they overshadowed others. There are long enough stretches where they don't appear & when they popped back up it sometimes felt a bit abrupt. Also, one of them had some Mary Sue luck & when they wondered how & why they survived it, I

wondered as well because it really made no sense other than the way the story ends needed them to survive. There was also some awkward moment after the main of the battle, where a soldier recognizes Steph but not because she's the famed reporter who framed Ichiro's story, no. Because Steph & Ichiro had been dating before the battle. This didn't make sense to me as it is clearly established earlier in the story that though they had been close for months leading up to the battle, they were "just friends" hence the tentativeness when the kiss lead to the hook up mere days before the battle began. That's not "dating" & I don't think Steph broadcast that via news feed & Ichiro isn't the sort to be chatty, so I don't know where that bit came from at all. By Steph's own words, she didn't know what she & Ichiro were or would be or what she even wanted in the relationship department as she was heading to cover the battle!

The Kreelans were very interesting & something to get used to. The lens through which they view life & the universe is most explained through Tesh-Dar. She's a supreme warrior priestess & sister to the sainted Empress, for whom all this warring & Bloodsong seeking goes on. The Kreelans were glorious, vicious & arrogant. I'm still not sure how I feel about them. I need to know more.

The one thing that I simply did not like at all was that the whole story is about fighting the Kreelans to protect Keran (view spoiler) I wasn't expecting that & admit to having some hard feelings toward the rest of humanity for that one. I want some sort of retribution for that. I'll read the next in the series because I'm interested to know where this is going.

Donna says

I read the In Her Name trilogy last year and considered it one of my top reads for 2010. I have been looking forward to reading this prequel but have been a little hesitant, fearful that it wouldn't be of the same caliber as In Her Name. I am thrilled to say that I had nothing to fear.

This is a top-notch first contact story. The reactions of the humans and the politics involved in humanity's first contact with the Kreelans felt very real. The battle scenes were gripping and it had that well-plotted but nerve wracking quality of every character being at risk.

I am looking forward to In Her Name: Legend of the Sword. I'm not planning on waiting a year this time to get around to it. Also, these books are some of the best value for your money out there. Highly recommended.

Josh says

This whole series focuses on the conflict between aliens and humans. What I liked was both viewpoints of the conflict. Also the aliens acted for logical reasons just not human logic. It's hard to write aliens as alien and not just "dressed up" humans and I think he succeeded. Story and plot were good with some memorable characters. Also different characters had different points of view on things that were never really resolved...just like real life.

What I didn't like was the books felt a little "twilightish" to me as far as the romance goes between human and alien. Aspects of the relationship were really improbable to me within the context the author set up. Another problem is some points got repeated over and over again. Not in a preachy way but sometimes I felt like "Okay I get it". This review is for the series as a whole and not this individual book.

Dave says

I wanted to like this book. I downloaded it for free. The reviews both in Goodreads and Amazon are quite favorable. But I found the entire story shopworn, illogical, and too convoluted to be interesting. And the author's writing style is way too wordy and simplistic. I managed to finish the book, but my feelings upon doing so were relief, not satisfaction.

The story line revolves around human contact with a far superior race of aliens. The aliens are a violent matriarchal society who seem to get their only enjoyment through physical combat. They have confusing and powerful telepathic powers, can communicate and travel over vast distances, are far superior to humans, yet are unable to communicate with or understand humans - I don't get it.

The story follows initial contact and annihilation of an exploratory human crew (except for one messenger). The messenger then gains a sacredness with the aliens which makes him safe from further harm. The messenger brings warning back to humans. There is some preparation for battle, then a war on one of the human planets. The aliens 'dumb-down' their fighting capabilities to even the odds and then proceed with a very bloody war with heavy casualties on both sides. Of course the key half-dozen humans being followed in the story miraculously (heavy on the miracles) manage to survive.

Author Michael Hicks spends a good portion of the book repeatedly explaining each character's emotions, rather than writing a good, tight story and letting the reader figure that out. There is a rather silly love story interwoven into the story. As other reviewers have noted, Mr. Hicks likes to use asides extensively, which slow the story to a crawl. The dialog is just silly at times and unnecessarily heavy on expletives. And there's just too many things wrong or illogical to make this book good science fiction. Can't recommend this one.

Jay Dee Archer says

This was a pleasant surprise. Plenty of action, good character development, and enough deaths to make me wonder who will survive. Read my full review here: <https://ireadencyclopedias.wordpress....>

Matt says

2.5/5

I thought I loved all sci-fi. I was wrong.

This author does a lot right, but just as much wrong. I can't stand more telling than showing. A ton of time is spent with dozens and DOZENS of characters, setting up little backgrounds, which is great, ha-ha, my life is this, and here's a little cute backstory about my family or my hobbies, meh meh meh, but it never comes back around to mean anything and they often die anyway. It's dreadfully, dreadfully over written, although the writing is clear and mechanically sound and vivid, it just didn't keep my attention.

This novel is going to be perfect for space-opera lovers who care about well-written detail just for the sake of it; invading alien race history and their culture; human political response (globally and by country -- the best part, IMHO); and action for action lovers. Man, oh, man. Do you get pages and pages of action. I just don't care for it my books. I suppose I'm spoiled on TV and movies, because I'd rather watch it than read it. It just goes on forever, even though it's rollicking and thrums with urgency, it just, ahhh!, DRONES ON for chapters and chapters and chapters.

I just prefer character stories in my sci-fi -- and world-building. This novel had tons of narrative summaries. As in: author tells you about a character's past in an info-dump style when two characters first meet, to show that the author knew their backstory. great job. you thought about your characters. whoopee, now execute this in an engaging way and show us, don't tell us. A little telling is fine. For a f***in' movie, as a screenplay, this could be a great film -- but still -- reading this was a chore. I'm gonna say I'm not the right reader for this sub-genre or style.

I'll take speculative science-fiction rooted in reality over fantasy space alien operas, I guess.

The TBR Pile *Book review site* says

book review and giveaway

TBR Reviewer: B.H (Brutally honest)

I love science fiction and the cover instantly grabbed my attention. I really had high hopes for this book, the plot sounded full of adventure and as I said I love Sci Fi.

The beginning is primarily introductions and it is slow moving. Mr. Hicks would have been better off cutting it short or getting right into the action of the 'first contact' which turns out to be a slaughter. The fight is constantly interrupted by flashbacks about certain crewmembers. Paragraphs about their lives, small tidbits about them all while the aliens are boarding and creating chaos on this ship, it slows down the pace considerably. When the aliens finally capture the survivors, it does get better. The story moves faster but not enough to be a good pace. It's still very sluggish and I often found myself wanting to X out the PDF and go do something else. There was a lot of head hoping that proved to hinder the story. It also needs more editing; I noticed a few things that knocked me out of the space voyage and back to my cluttered desk.

I hate when the author reveals something about the future ahead of time. Such as Mr. Hicks writing, 'They had no way of knowing that all but one of them would be dead in a few short hours.' That ruins the spontaneity, the surprise. When the attack comes, I don't want to know the ending before the first blow is struck. Readers should live in the moment as the characters do. This happens a few times throughout the book.

The plot was good, had a bit of a Stargate feel to it (A favorite of mine.) but I quickly found myself not wanting to continue because of the issues mentioned above. The story was there and I am slightly interested in the next novel. Perhaps that would be more engaging and faster paced.

Enter the contest here: <http://thetbrpile.weebly.com/1/post/2...>

Lalo Martins says

A richly developed alien culture and the interesting (if not novel) concept of contact with a much more advanced species with values so different we can't communicate. Good prose and characters that resonate. All this wasted is a book that is 90% fight scenes. After a while the battle antics just blurred into one another and bored me into skipping entire chapters.
