



Parley

Jamie McFarlane

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Liam Hoffen and Nick James are back in the next, exciting installment of Jamie McFarlane's Privateer Tales.

After fighting space pirates and rescuing a damsel in distress, nothing sounds better than shore leave at Puskar Stellar on Mars where Liam can reconnect with his girlfriend. But neither their newest crew member, Marny, nor the Mars Protectorate Navy is ready for them to spend much time relaxing.

Their old nemesis, Harry Flark, found a new mining station to pillage and the crew of Sterra's Gift has been hired to transport a covert operative into Flark's lair. This is the perfect opportunity for them to set things right if it helps to bring him down. The big problem comes when Liam and Nick discover Flark is expecting them and has no intention of letting them get away with their lives.

Like white knights on silver steeds, Liam, Nick, Marny and a passel of new friends fight their way across the solar system, making a name for themselves and their mission.

Parley Details

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Author : Jamie McFarlane

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S says

Read the first Rookie Privateer book (which I got for free through ebuB) , then bought the box set. To start with I was concerned this was a YA series - I haven't read too many novels recently with a recent high school graduate in the lead role. The feeling vanished during #2, but it has returned now that I am reading #3. The protagonist is a bit too Mary-Sue-ish for my liking (he has zero character flaws and is an all-round great guy) and, despite minor mishaps, everything seems to always fall into place for the team. The investment by the Navy into a bunch of teenagers in a clapped-out ex-pirate cutter was a stretch to believe. I am looking for a somewhat more flawed, darker, deeper lead character. On the upside, I have scarcely heard of a male teenager who is so keen on cleanliness. Maybe there is hope... I guess I am a bit too old to read this, but I'll finish the box set - just because I bought it.

T.H. Leatherman says

Revenge has never been so sweet

Liam, Nick , and Marny are at it again. This time the Mar Protectorate are making them an offer they can't refuse. Sneak a covert operative into another mining colony. One run by Harry Flark who sold out colony 40, nearly killing Liam's and Nick's parents and all of their friends. No chance they'll turn down the opportunity for some payback. Things go pear-shaped right away. Flark knows their coming. It will take all of their cunning and courage to survive.

Many of you have read my reviews and know I'm a fan of this series. This book is no exception. Jamie weaves a great story and Liam, Nick, and Marny pop off the page and into our imaginations as they battle space pirates, smugglers, and slavers. A fun read for any space opera fans.

Doug says

Excellent

Scrappy and loyal. I love the characters and the storyline. I enjoy the rough and tumble. The long shots that pay off and the no one left behind quality of the cast. I recommend this book.

Topher says

Liam and Nick (and company) continue their adventures, running into some familiar faces from the previous two books in the series. Things come to a glorious conclusion, leaving the rest of the series a nice open environment in which the author can play

Billie says

A little stereotypical near YA space action adventure story. I will probably continue the series, however some of the writing around our protagonists crushes and leadership moments are bit cringe-y too.

The first story in the series had some issues with a lack of women characters, and this story seems to resolve that, with a more balanced cast. I hold out hope for the author further developing their style in future books.

Tim Seabrook says

Liam and Nick are quickly in the thick of the action from the outset when they catch a mayday message. While unable to save the person who initially broadcasted, they do save another from a jettisoned pod and after reaching Mars, get roped into a mission by the Mars Protectorate Navy though with a lot less details than they'd like.

Soon, things become problematic with a missing crew member, meeting up with an old nemesis and lots of space battles.

Patrick Barnes says

Confused and disappointed

DNF. I read about 75% before the logical flaws overwhelmed my willingness to believe the story.

The boats owned by the main characters are a freighter and a tugboat but the tugboat is referred to as a freighter several times. The freighter is described as thirty meters long, with no height or width given in the first book. The tugboat has room for two crew, no other size clues are given.

I didn't read the books to begin a design search of water tugboat or freighters, so I compared them to water bourne boats that I've seen in movies or T.V. The boats and crew sizes are smaller than equivalent planetary water ships. With life support, weapons, vacuum rated gear, air locks, engines capable of reasonable speeds across interplanetary distances the ships are too small. The crews are accordingly too small for the ship functions.

This makes for a tidy universe in which to set the story but it's a little bit young adult with its vagueness and glossing over certain realities. I liked the young characters but the story minimizes the role of the adult characters to something roughly similar to adults in "Peanuts". Charlie Brown in space is very YA but minus the hard facts of life in space, engineering wise, socially and politically. See Asimov's YA series or Harry Potter.

Last but not least, the characters are the luckiest teenagers ever. Every time a challenge arises or an obstacle appears, so does a helpful adult to provide a solution, information, resources or scads of cash. The writer needs to read about "Deus ex machina" as a plot device and then maybe seriously think about it. These constant coincidences aren't good storytelling.

The writing in general isn't bad but hardly stellar. Three books in and I've lost any connection to the story

and am not even sure if I'm in the targeted age group.

Dave Wallace says

Since it's unlikely we will ever travel faster than light and meet the Ewoks to slaughter them as they deserve, let's just stay in the solar system and have some good old fashioned space opera fun. Fun with space pirates to boot. While the basic outline of a rag tag crew led by a recent lonely asteroid, high school graduate and hot shot seat of the pants space pilot (at least he didn't come off the moisture farm) with a well used space ship seems to be a bit overdone, the writing never becomes condescending like some of this genre. I found this to be actually quite smart. The letter of marquee was a nice touch. The characters are starting to get familiar (book #3), and just when you get the septic system fixed on your spacecraft it gets shot up by pirates. This may be a running gag. I'll leave plot points to others but suffice it to say, I have never read any space opera or anything else for that matter than quoted a couple of lines C.W. McCall's Convoy. That brought back strange flashback memories. This is a fun series.

Stephen says

So far I love this series. I hope it doesn't keep having the main characters losing their ship all the time, Every book so far, they have damaged or lost their ship. It is becoming tedious. I love the characters and storyline so much. Great Reading Everyone!!!!!!

Roberto Viña Sosa says

Like it, loved the new female in the crew, yet foreshadowing that this book is soon to die into a rom-com or some crap like that, please don't marry the main character to the crappy developed main female from the 1st book pretty please! by the way this people are way too young to be this competent and serious about everything, should have made them be in it's 30'

Michael Wood says

Very Good Young Adult Solar Space Opera Epic

This series seems to be a Young Adult (YA) space opera, but it also appealed to an older reader (me). After all, most space opera has SOME young adult attraction...and some day, I am sure that I will grow up... This is the third book in the series. I have waited a while to get back into this series, after burning out earlier.

The plot is fun, the action is almost nonstop, there is a tasteful but so-far-unrequited romance, and I really enjoyed reading this volume. Characters are a little flat...in that they don't change much, however the first three volumes only cover about two months subjective time.

As with all space opera, the heroes are exceptionally lucky...and in this story, have sponsors with extra deep pockets supporting their adventures.

RECOMMENDED AS: YOUNG ADULT SOLAR SPACE OPERA

Steve Canipe says

Exciting

The Parley is a quick read and one that shows teamwork and quick responses can make bad guys flinch. Friendships and comradeship play well. There are some sentimental passages and even some romantic interludes. The biggie is coming face to face with evil and being lucky to find help when needed. A good way to spend a couple of hours. Recommend it for those interested in a swashbuckling sci-fi adventure.

Elizabeth Roberts says

My wife presented me with this package of the Author-signed book, a signed letter from the Author and his business card. I was thrilled, apprehensive after learning it was a YA book, but honestly thrilled - I love SF and have been reading since getting Daybreak 2250 from Scholastic as a young reader (back when dinosaurs still ran the printing presses).

I had a Very Pleasant Surprise! The book is very tightly written with believable characters and a fair plot, yet still has the "Action Blockbuster Movie" feel. The Adult situations are adroitly handled in a values-driven message manner which well fits the YA audience yet does not disappoint an adult reader - and doesn't hit one over the head nor subscribe to any single values set other than 'Good Everyday Values'. It's simply GOOD, mild fiction better fitted for a continuing YA series.

It definitely is Science Fiction with a very well-written sub-created universe. I'd put this on every library's list for YA had I the power.

Thomas James says

McFarlane Did It Again

If you are into space fiction along with high-action battle this is for you. I don't know how he comes up with this stuff. Perhaps he's a time traveller and is just telling us the future (like Star Trek?). Good fun, good characters, good description, good ending, great fun.

Tony Hisgett says

Quite a decent start to the story, however it takes a long time before anything else particularly exciting happens. The story is OK but I found there was just too much mundane detail. I enjoyed some of the interaction between the characters and it was interesting to see the carry over from the previous novella *Fool Me Once*.

One of the things I enjoy about SciFi novels is the description of the science and the interaction with the technology, it also provides an interesting contrast to the periods of action, however with this book I found

myself skipping pages hoping something was going to happen.
