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Blackhawk: Far Stars Legends I



Synopsis

Blackhawk. A wanderer, a man running from a dark and sinister past. A genetically-engineered warrior, a capable and accomplished killer, he is also a lost soul, a man who has fled to the deepest reaches of space seeking his true identity.

The Far Stars. The farthest extent of human habitation in the galaxy, a sector of a hundred inhabited worlds, it is a dangerous expanse full of pirates, mercenaries, and cutthroats. The sector is a rough and rugged frontier, lying beyond the darkness of the great Void, and the only place in all the vastness of space where men live free of the brutal empire that rules the rest of mankind.

Celtiboria. Once the premier world in the Far Stars, now a planet wracked by centuries of brutal civil war, driven to the edge of a dark age by the unending struggle among its Warlords for power and control.

Augustin Lucerne. One of Celtiboria's feuding Warlords, a brilliant tactician and a respected commander. Lucerne is something rare on Celtiboria, in all of the Far Stars: an honorable man who fights not for personal aggrandizement but to save his world.

When Blackhawk meets Lucerne he comes to a stark choice. He can continue on his way, a drifter wandering from world to world, alone and without purpose. Or he can join with Lucerne, fight at the Warlord's side in desperate battle for survival. But whatever he chooses, he will have to face the demons that have pursued him across the stars, the dark version of himself that still lives deep within his mind.

Blackhawk is a prequel to the Far Stars series, set twenty years before the existing books. For those who have read the Far Stars trilogy, this is the origin story of Arkar Blackhawk. And for those who have not read the existing Far Stars series, Blackhawk is an ideal place to start.

The Far Stars Series

- Shadow of Empire
- Enemy in the Dark
- Funeral Games

Also by Jay Allan

Crimson Worlds Series

- Marines (Crimson Worlds I)
- The Cost of Victory (Crimson Worlds II)
- A Little Rebellion (Crimson Worlds III)
- The First Imperium (Crimson Worlds IV)
- The Line Must Hold (Crimson Worlds V)
- To Hell's Heart (Crimson Worlds VI)
- The Shadow Legions (Crimson Worlds VII)
- Even Legends Die (Crimson Worlds VIII)
- The Fall (Crimson Worlds IX)
- Tombstone (Crimson Worlds Prequel Novella)
- Bitter Glory (Crimson Worlds Prequel Novella)
- The Gates of Hell (Crimson Worlds Prequel Novella)

Crimson Worlds Successors Series

- MERCS (Successors I)
- The Prisoner of Eldaron (Successors II)
- The Black Flag (Successors III - Coming Summer 2016)

Crimson Worlds Refugees Series

- Into the Darkness (Refugees I)
- Shadows of the Gods (Refugees II)
- Revenge of the Ancients (Refugees III)

Portal Wars Series

- Gehenna Dawn (Portal Wars I)
- The Ten Thousand (Portal Wars II)
- Homefront (Portal Wars III)

Pendragon Chronicles

- The Dragon's Banner (Pendragon Chronicles I)

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Customer Reviews

First...although the Far Stars Trilogy has been out a while, I have not read them...yet. So...we meet a mysterious stranger with genetically enhanced powers and military skills, trying to escape his vicious past and who gets involved in a civil war scenario. Not that much revealed yet of his back history, maybe more will be revealed in the trilogy, which I do have. With that said, it was a good SciFi Civil War yarn, enjoyed the problems faced by Blackhawk who basically wanted to leave his somewhat mysterious past behind, and is forced to 'PICK UP HIS GUN AGAIN'. I liked Lucerne, appreciated his problems, trying to be honorable in a war situation where that could mean disaster. Blackhawk is a total warrior with suppressed emotions and he was trying to leave that behind, but he finds himself in the position of letting suppressed emotions possibly affecting military judgement. I thought it was a pretty good book.

Blackhawk, is the prequel to the Far Stars novels that Jay Allan released between Nov '15 - Jan

2016 and it was very enjoyable, offering new insights into Blackhawk, the Legend. Blackhawk has been wandering the Far Stars for several years, not doing much - mostly getting drunk. By a stroke of fortune he comes into contact with Augustin Lucerne and his life is changed for ever, thus setting him on the path that will see him as the hero he will eventually become in the future. Ark is a lot darker in this one - he is reluctant to trust, reluctant to feel and reluctant to embrace any kind of future and in battle he becomes a cold, vicious killer, lost in the persona he was back in the Empire. There are hints of the man he is capable of becoming, especially when he befriends and helps the Grays and Lucerne. Jay Allan does a great job describing the harshness of battle, courage and grit, the longing for home and family - as a reader, I get a true sense of the weight and responsibility that is on the shoulders of each soldier as they endure the fields of battle. The near repetition of what soldiers - NCOs, officers and privates - have to endure is a hallmark of Allan's writing that some may find annoying, but for me, it drives home the pain, blood-lust, weight of responsibility, grit and courage of those that choose a military career. War is hell at the end of the day, but soldiers are human and like us all they long for the simple comforts of home and family. Jay Allan does a great job giving the reader a true picture of the soldier's life. Overall, Blackhawk offers both insights into the Far Stars universe and knowledge about Blackhawk himself. There is plenty of action and intrigue which will keep any reader engrossed in this new story set some 25 years before the events in the Far Stars trilogy.

Bringing his special abilities and skills to aid a warlord on a planet controlled by feuding armies, Blackhawk seeks to escape his past in service to a man he can admire and trust. Can even Blackhawk's remarkable skills win the day against the cruel warlord Carteria with his massive bankroll and huge army of veteran fighters and mercenaries? The action is constant and terrifically well-written. The characters are typical for Jay Allen - described with his standard attention to detail, and brought to life in the pages of this exciting story. They live, fight, love and die as Jay brings us into the world of the Far Stars, the beginning of a remarkable series of tales. This sci-fi space opera set far in humanity's future will give you a front row seat to the lives in the Far Stars. Don't miss this introduction to brand new heroes in an all new series.

A new author I discovered a couple of years ago ~ I miss good SiFi and this filled a hole for me ~ they are easy reads, entertaining and once you finish one you will probably buy another to see where the characters are going in the next book/episode ~ I have read everything he has published, at first mostly on Kindle but more recently in paperback, the Far Star series, the Crimson World

series, the Portal Wars, the Legacy Fleet Trilogy, all the prequels and sequels and if you like space, good against evil and star wars type settings you will probably like Jay Allan. Just a footnote, Jay Allan also wrote a book called Diablo Wells, one of my favorites, if you like Stephen King you'll like it.

Jay Allan is one of the best. I don't know how he does it but he's extremely prolific. If you like Sci-fi with a military bent pick up Far Stars Legends and start reading, when you finish that pick up the Far Stars series and keep reading. Read the future in the battle for independence fought by the far stars and the men and women that fight for their freedom. That includes Blackhawk, Lucerne, DeMark and others, some old friends and some new. Highly recommended.

If you know Jay Allen's books you will be thrilled to once again be thrust EVEN FARTHER into the future. It is basically the same story as the Crimson Worlds series -- humanity is tottering on the edge of Dystopia and we need some real men to aid the galaxy -- but with a very different twist. Possibly more of a future Dark Ages than a dystopian story.

A fine novel from Jay Allen, with top notch writing. This book introduces me to Blackhawk, a conflicted hero. I thank the author for this book, for an honest review. I already purchased the next book in the series and look forward to reading more about the adventures of the main characters.

I am usually not a big fan of war books but this one is different. The plot is well done and interesting. The characters are fleshed out and real. I enjoyed reading this book. It is a real page turner and held my interest right up to the end. I am looking forward to reading the next book.

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