



## Dragon of the Stars

*Alex J. Cavanaugh*

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## **Dragon of the Stars** Alex J. Cavanaugh

The ship of legends...

The future is set for Lt. Commander Aden Pendar, son of a Hyrathian Duke. Poised to secure his own command and marriage to the queen's daughter, he'll stop at nothing to achieve his goals.

But when the Alliance denies Hyrath's claim on the planet of Kavil and declares war on their world, Aden finds his plans in disarray. Entrenched in battle and told he won't make captain, Aden's world begins to collapse. How will he salvage his career and future during Hyrath's darkest hour?

One chance remains—the Dragon. Lost many years prior, the legendary ship's unique weapon is Hyrath's only hope. Can Aden find the Dragon, save his people, and prove he's capable of commanding his own ship?

## **Dragon of the Stars Details**

Date : Published April 7th 2015 by Dancing Lemur Press L.L.C.

ISBN : 9781939844064

Author : Alex J. Cavanaugh

Format : Paperback 276 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Action, Science Fiction Fantasy, Space, Space Opera

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# From Reader Review Dragon of the Stars for online ebook

## Nicole says

I received an advanced reading copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

First off, I wish there was a way for me to give this four and a half stars!

Dragon of the Stars was my introduction to the science fiction genre. In this story, Aden Pendar is eagerly awaiting his promotion to captain which he believes will finally give him the acceptance from his father that he has striven for his entire life, as well as his own ship and a beautiful young princess to marry. Before he can get his review and the promotion he so desperately desires, his planet goes to war.

This is more than a story of space ships and war, it is beautifully written, moving, and once you pick it up, it is impossible to put down. As a reader, you are drawn into his mission to save his planet and the people, as well as Pendar's own personal growth as both a soldier and as a human being.

Definitely would recommend this book and look forward to picking up more of Alex Cavanaugh's work in the future!

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## edifanob says

UPDATE 2015-03-01: My Full review

Review

Clarification

How can I write and present a review of a book which will be released on 7th of April 2015?

Because publisher Dancing Lemur Press LLC sent me an unproofed review copy of Dragon of the Stars (7th April 2015) [Kindle ASIN: B00S0DPUYU] by Alex J. Cavanaugh.

The review copy I read for this review stands for 271 pages divided into fifteen consecutive numbered chapters. Of course I tried to avoid spoilers and of course I will not answer the question

What are the Kargrandes?

Cover

I think I'm not wrong when I assume that the cover shows the legendary Dragon. A while ago Zoltán Gece from RaveAir mentioned that the ship looks like a guitar or at least as a part of guitar. Of course I do not know whether this was intended or not. But it would be no surprise in case you know that Alex J. Cavanaugh is a guitar player.

Nevertheless the cover shows a powerful ship and that this ship will play an important role within the story.

After the successful Cassa trilogy Alex J. Cavanaugh returns with a new space opera.

Is it old wine in new skins? On the contrary!

Dragon of the Stars is a completely new story and comes along in a more grown up and darker tone. It is neither hard science fiction nor tough military science fiction. It is a space opera in the best sense.

The story seems simple. Two parties compete for the supremacy over a planet with excellent resources. A legendary ship lost years ago could be the ultimate weapon to decide the conflict. A young hero is sent out to find the ship full stop.

But Dragon of the Stars is the new book by Alex J. Cavanaugh and anyone who read the Cassa trilogy knows that nothing is simple when it comes to books by this author.

Lt. Commander Aden Pendar is son of a Duke. His future is more or less predetermined. To get a command is just a question of time like the marriage with Arabella, the Queen's daughter. Of course he is totally cocksure of himself. He is a well educated and talented officer but not good at leadership and his social skills are beyond average.

His life turns upside down with the conflict between the Alliance and his home world Hyrath which finally ends up in a war.

His predetermined life is going down the drain. The message that his promotion to Captain completely depends on his social and leadership skills hit him like an ice cube.

In fact this message is the end of Lt. Commander Aden Pendar as we know him so far and the begin of the pregnancy of the new Lt. Commander Aden Pendar.

It is the development of this character which drives the story. The development is inseparably connected with the search for the Dragon.

Everything what happens with and within Aden Pendar is like a mirror of the conflict between the Alliance and Hyrath and the inner conflict of Hyrathian society. There are a lot more conflicts as one think at first sight.

These conflicts emphasize in a striking manner that the world is neither black nor white.

It shows the quality of Alex J. Cavanaugh to describe battles without going into details but still delivering action.

The most important weapons in this battle - except the Dragon - are honor, love, fidelity, and steadfastness expressed in dialogue and gestures.

And all these conflicts culminate in a gut-wrenching climax in form of existential questions for Aden Pendar and a lot, lot, lot of other beings.

So far it seems that there is just one important character - Aden Pendar. But that is not true.

The story would not work without Cordell Byford and his son, Arabella, Queen Isidore, Councilman Roystonar, Shadvey, engineer Vardy, Captain Fyell, Duke Balderic and more. Stop!!

There is one more person which must be mentioned in a review. Tamsin Pavott.

She is an extraordinary young woman and absolute in her determination to prove herself on every level of her life. Show follows her convictions at all cost.

With that I return to the beginning. I did not mention a word about the Kargrandes. The secret will remain until 7th April 2015.

Until then you should visit

What are the Kargrandes?

Every week you will get a new hint.

Verdict

With *Dragon of the Stars* Alex J. Cavanaugh delivers a more grown up, more thoughtful and a bit darker story for fans of space opera. It contains action on every level from space battles over word battles to inner battles.

The mirroring of outer and inner conflicts is intoxicating and will hook you immediately and does not let you go even after you have finished the book. There are questions and decisions which will keep you busy.

*Dragon of the Stars* is a thrilling space opera with inner and outer conflicts and fascinating characters.

Annotation

After reading four books by Alex J. Cavanaugh I'm sure I finally found out the secret power hidden in the depths of his books. It is the power of love. A love which has nothing to do with romance or sex. It may sound hackneyed. But Look at the core of the characters look at their motivation. Isn't it love in the end which force them to act like they act?

For a better understanding I recommend to read following article: [Love](#)

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## **Medeia Sharif says**

Lt. Commander Aden Pendar, full of ambition, is about to marry the queen's daughter, but then war strikes...just when he had so much going for him. He has to find the Dragon, a powerful ship that was lost in space, because it can be the salvation of his people. Can he and his crew find this mysterious ship?

I'm not a big sci-fi reader, but Alex's series and sci-fi books have been amazing. Each book was better than the last, with this one being my favorite. There's plenty of action, character development, and superb world-building.

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## **Toi Thomas says**

Every time I read one of Cavanaugh's books, I kick myself for waiting so long to read it. This isn't just another space opera; this is an amazing space opera by an author who's known for adding layers you wouldn't expect in such a story.

While I will always love the Cassa Series, *Dragon of the Stars* blew me away. I almost want to write fan fiction about this story. I'm actually sad that this is a stand-alone, but I get why it might be difficult to continue the story.

When I first started reading about Aden and his desire to be captain of his own ship, I didn't really much care for him. I did like his parents though. The whole disagreement between Hyrath, Aden's home planet, and the rest of the Alliance initially seemed as trivial as most political conflicts, but it soon began to develop in a way that let you know more was happening, even if you didn't know what.

I see most plot twists coming a mile away, and even though I kinda saw this one coming, I wasn't expecting the finality of it. I guess I kept thinking there was a "back door" or "ace in the hole" to be played after the ultimate sacrifice was made, but nope. It really was the ultimate sacrifice. I mean, like, FOR-E-VER!

Like all of Cavanaugh's books, this story has layers. Most people never get the opportunity to take on a true leadership role and might take for granted what all it actually takes to be, not just an effective leader, but a great one whose followers would gladly go to their death under such leadership. This story shows what a sacrifice leadership and heroism really is, and so much more.

I finished this book feeling as though I was connected to the characters and the world's in which they lived. I want to bring all the Kargrandes home and let them eat my backyard. And don't get me started on Pavott; I so want to be besties with her.

I seriously need the following installments to be added to this amazing stand-alone: Pavott's back story prequel, A history of Hyrathian dragons side story, the life cycle of a Kargrandes told in a creative narrative, one awesome diplomatic mission in the life and times of the new Captain Pendar. But, since these may never happen, I'll just have to be happy re-reading this each year.

Recommended to anyone who loves space opera and anyone interested in reading a story they won't see coming. Suitable for all readers, but meant for adults.

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## **J. Dorner says**

"Doesn't matter the ship, Son. It's her captain and crew that make the vessel."

I knew as soon as I read Fyall saying that line that this book was going to drop an unexpected twist. I was right! Excellent ending.

This is a classic sci-fi story. It reminded me of a cross between *Star Trek* (the characters, dialog, and setting) and the *Stargate Atlantis* Wraith ships (one of the technologies).

I won a copy of this book thanks to an IWSG contest.

The writing is exceptional. I'd like to get to know Aden's mother's dragons better. I've had friends who aimed for "the princess" rather than the alternative they didn't see, so I found that relatable. But with what happens once he wises up... yikes! That's one heck of a twist. I kept reading because I was very interested in the fate of the kargrandes.

I'm glad I read this and I look forward to reading more by this author.

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### **Per Gunnar says**

Alex J. Cavanaugh's science fiction books have always been a bit "different" than the standard science fiction fare in that he tends to mix biology and technology rather liberally. In his Cassastar series for instance the pilots are people with a skill that enabled them to teleport their ship through space. In this book animals are providing energy and powering starship in symbiosis with the Hyraths.

As you might suspect this is not a book for the die hard science lovers. The concepts are fairly wild and an animal providing powers to propel a starship between the stars, not to mention powering the weapons etc, is rather far out I would say.

I did feel that the reader was thrown somewhat into the deep end at the start though. The book takes off pretty much at once and there is not much explanation or world building done. A lot of concepts, like power generating animals, are talked about between the characters as if the reader would already be familiar with them. The same can be said for the social and political structures.

Nevertheless this is a fairly entertaining book. It is not very big, or at least it did not feel like a very big book. I read it rather quickly. It is a nice adventure story though. We get to follow the main characters through a number of adventurous episodes in his search for the famed ship. A little bit of romance is thrown in as well. The book is well written with characters that you enjoy following.

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### **Sherry Ellis says**

Lt. Commander Aden Pender, has ambitions for becoming a captain of his own space ship, and marrying the Queen's daughter. Those plans are thwarted when war is declared against his people. Their only salvation would be to find a ship, the Dragon, which had been lost for twenty years. Pender is given the responsibility of taking a hand-picked crew and finding the Dragon.

The action in this book is very good, but what makes it even more interesting, is the growth of Aden Pender. He starts off as a business-minded officer lacking people skills, and becomes someone who learns to be thoughtful and compassionate. The side plot of Aden's love interest is also compelling. He begins with an attraction to a rather vain princess, and then discovers what love really is with a young woman officer named Tamsin Pavott. The relationship that develops between the two is really lovely, and it's refreshing that it has nothing to do with sex.

Dragon of the Stars is a well-written story that is appealing on many levels. It has all the action of a space opera, but it also has depth with relationships and fascinating characters. This is a book that would appeal to

readers who enjoy space operas.

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### **Christine Rains says**

For Lt. Commander Aden Pendar, every step of his future has been planned. He'll become a captain, marry the queen's daughter, and then eventually take over his father's business. Determined and confident, he will not be deterred until the Alliance declares war on his world. Only one thing can save his home: the Dragon. It is the most powerful ship ever created, but lost amongst the stars. Aden must find the Dragon to save his people, but will this dangerous mission be his last?

An incredible tale of determination, loyalty, and sacrifice. We begin with Aden adeptly navigating through the tangled societal and political environment. It in itself is intense even before Hyrath goes to war with the Alliance. It was easy to get caught up in Aden's fierce determination in everything he does. I was hooked on the story from page one.

Hyrath and the Alliance go to war over a planet with highly valuable resources. Ships from all races face off in space. The scenes are fast, fiery, and vivid. What's even more is how clever and daring Aden is in dealing with various situations. It isn't all about who has the biggest weapons, but tactical maneuvering and calculated risks.

The characterization is phenomenal. Aden can be a bit hard edged, but I became immensely invested in him as the layers were peeled back. I liked even more the moral struggle about the Dragon and its secret. Two of my favorites were Tamsin Pavott and Shadvey. Pavott's unwavering loyalty to Aden was awe-inspiring, and I loved the little peeks we got of her as a person outside of her position on the ship.

I was already a fan of Alex J. Cavanaugh before I read this book, but DRAGON OF THE STARS is by far my favorite of his work. It is space opera at its finest.

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### **Wendy says**

"Dragon of the Stars" which I won through Goodreads Giveaways is a compelling and gripping sci-fy novel from the pen of Alex J. Cavanaugh that begins on the planet of Hyrath where Lt. Commander Alen Pendar, the son of a duke is attending the Summer Solstice. He has his life all mapped out- to take command of his own spaceship and marry the queen's youngest daughter- only to have destiny intervene. When the Alliance denies not only his planet's claim to the resource rich planet Kavil, but also their seat in the coalition, Hyrath faces a war that will bring its people to the brink of destruction unless Lt. Commander Pendar can find and bring home their greatest weapon - the Dragon- a ship that disappeared into the shadowy depths of space years before.

The plot is intoxicating as tension and suspense builds the closer the Lt. Commander and his crew come to finding and bringing back the elusive ship. With skilful dexterity the writer sets the stage in an emotionally-charged war where injury and death stalk Alen Pendar's family and friends. Rich and vividly descriptive the writer uses the sights and sounds of an explosive clash of wills that have spaceships battling for supremacy above Kavil and Hyrath. Amid a storm of conflict that kills thousands Lt. Commander Pendar is sent on a secret mission that has him not only unravelling the mystery of the Dragon, but learning how to manage and



care for a young crew; a quality his former captain found he lacked. Woven into an imaginative and unique story that's riveting from the beginning to an explosive climax, there are strong elements of courage, friendship and self-sacrifice as fate sets a man on a journey of discovery that will earn him the esteem of a nation and the respect of a race of sentient beings.

The main characters are unforgettable and complex as they face challenges and make decisions that will change them forever. Lt. Commander Aden Pendar is charming, ambitious, and driven to succeed. He's a man who's single-minded, self-assured, and a creative thinker but aloof from those he commands. In a stroke of fate Aden learns to care not only for his crew, but bravely sacrifices his interests to save the planet and people he loves. Ensign Tamsin Pavott is a skilled, proficient and dedicated weapons officer. Clever, smart and empathetic, she will forfeit a normal life to be with the man she admires and cares for. Although not overly prevalent in the plotline, there is a lingering spark of deep affection between Aden and Tamsin that's almost tragic.

I thoroughly enjoyed the intriguing plot, and characters that add power, drama and passion to "Dragon of the Stars." This is not just a story about the retrieval of a legendary ship and an innovative weapon that could save two races from annihilation, but it explores the conscience of a man who in a selfless act becomes a hero. I intend to look for more novels by Alex J. Cavanaugh, a science fiction author whose definitely worth following.

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## **Donna Weaver says**

### **WHAT IT'S ABOUT**

The ship of legends...

The future is set for Lt. Commander Aden Pendar, son of a Hyrathian Duke. Poised to secure his own command and marriage to the queen's daughter, he'll stop at nothing to achieve his goals.

But when the Alliance denies Hyrath's claim on the planet of Kavil and declares war on their world, Aden finds his plans in disarray. Entrenched in battle and told he won't make captain, Aden's world begins to collapse. How will he salvage his career and future during Hyrath's darkest hour?

One chance remains—the Dragon. Lost many years prior, the legendary ship's unique weapon is Hyrath's only hope. Can Aden find the Dragon, save his people, and prove he's capable of commanding his own ship?

### **MY TAKE**

As with all of Alex's books, I read this one aloud to my hubby. We're both huge fans. Having read Alex's Cassa series, it was fun to see this new world that he created. It became obvious early on what Aden's character arc would be. That boy had his priorities mixed up. I mentioned to hubby that Aden's problem was the opposite of Matthew McConaughey's character in the World War II film, U571. In that film, McConaughey was TOO close to his crew. Aden is too removed.

Alex's writing has matured over the years, I think this is his best book yet. He took right into the world, and I could see myself on board the various ships with him. The characters were engaging and the storyline intriguing.

Doesn't hurt that there's an interesting twist.

\*\*\*spoiler alert\*\*\*

One thing I really wish had happened--and it probably couldn't have because of the situation Aden is in at the end of the story--was him challenging that queen. That he sacrificed SO much to save her sorry butt and then she dared to say he had committed treason by disobeying her--an immoral and illegal order, by the way--just chapped my hide. I wanted Aden to say something about that. Ugh. One of those times where discretion is probably the better part of valor. But still! lol

Fun read!

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## **Bob Milne says**

*Disclaimer: I received an ARC of this title from the publisher in exchange for review consideration. While I make every attempt to avoid spoilers, please be aware that an ARC synopsis, press release, or review request may disclose details that are not revealed in the published cover blurb.*

Representing a significant shift in both focus and feel, *Dragon of the Stars* largely eschews the pulp adventure of Alex J. Cavanaugh's *Cassastar* saga, opting instead for a more mature sort of morality tale. It's a rather dark evolution of his earlier space opera themes, and one with an air of desperation, rather than optimism, behind it, but certainly no less exciting because of it.

To put it in *Star Trek* terms, this is Cavanaugh's *DS9* to the *Cassastar*'s *TNG* - and that's entirely a good thing!

Lt. Commander Aden Pendar is one of the most intriguing leads I've ever come across in a space opera tale. He's smart, clever, and technically proficient, with an intuitive understanding of tactics and strategy. Unfortunately, he's painfully obtuse when it comes to how to manage or relate to other human beings. He's coldly impersonal, a stickler for regulations, and quick to offer correction when appreciation is due. He's admirable as a soldier, but entirely unlikable as a leader (or as a human being).

It's the growth and development of Pendar's character that really drives the tale, especially once he's made aware that his long-expected promotion to Captain is entirely dependent upon him learning how to relate to his crew. While he does get the command he's always wanted, it's a temporary command, of a skeleton crew, on a mission that seems doomed to failure. The fate of an entire world rests, quite literally, on his shoulders, and he has to learn how to relate to the officers inside the uniforms he commands if they're to succeed.

The core conflict here, the one around which the morality tale is based, is exceptionally intriguing. On one side you have the Alliance, a group of races and cultures that are willing to go to war and destroy an entire planet to prevent one race from increasing its own wealth and power. On the other hand, you have the Hyrathians themselves, a culture that's become wealthy through the production of a highly addictive drug,

and who are willing to turn a blind eye to slavery in order to gain that wealth and power. It a conflict borne of fear, prejudice, politics, and greed, in which there really is no 'good' side.

It all, of course, leads to a desperate search for the legendary Dragon, a ship with which the Hyrathians could claim immediate victory, but which went rogue years ago. It's a shameful secret that Hyrath has been content ignore, and finding it promises to raise more questions and conflicts of conscience that it solves, especially once we discover why it's remained lost for so long.

Even if this is a darker, more thoughtful tale, *Dragon of the Stars* is still full of cinematic action sequences that even the most jaded space opera fan will love. Cavanaugh maintains the intimate focus and quick pacing that we've come to expect of him, and surrounds Pendar with a crew that draws the reader in and humanizes the tale, providing the breathing room we need to allow for Pendar's growth. It's still as fun and exciting as his first forays into space opera, but the darker themes and deeper level of introspection absolutely elevate the novel to a new level.

*Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins*

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## **Charity Bradford says**

If you know me, you know I've loved all of Alex's books. This one was no different. It's still got his easy to read style, likable and realistic characters, conflict on the personal and galactic scale and amazing world building that is easy to fall into. I love that Alex writes complex stories that don't feel complex until you take a step back and really look at it.

That's talent! I mean, there is amazing technology laced throughout this book, but you never feel bogged down by it. Alex also presents these great science fiction themes in a way that feels fresh and new.

Let's break things down.

Characters--

Aden Pendar is the son of a Duke. In the beginning he is exactly what you think a person of his status should be. Driven, self absorbed, focused solely on reaching his goal to make his family proud of him. This means obtaining the rank of Captain and marrying the Princess. This is what he wants. This is what he will do. The great thing is he isn't unnecessarily mean or vindictive to others around him. He's a snob, but a good guy.

War ensues and all of his dreams start to fall apart. He's told he might not make captain, (I won't tell you why) but is then given a ship and secret mission. He let's the criticism guide his choices. He makes choices that change his life and for the first time he's really alive. The men and women who work under him like him, respect him. And then...wow, we'll come back to this.

Tamsin Pavott--what can I say? I love her. She's strong but feminine, just as determined to prove herself and equal to the task before her. She really would follow Pendar to the ends of the universe.

Tatton--I really liked this guy. At first you don't think you're going to for many of the same reasons you might not like Pendar, but once again he turns out to be a good guy. I like good guys! He's got some growing up to do, but don't we all. In the end he's ready to step up to his challenges.

Action/Conflict--

Alex is great with this. There are battles in space, high speed chases and battles planet-side, inner conflict about right and wrong, political conflict, he's got everything. Okay to sum up, everyone is fighting over one planet and who has the right to mine it basically. But nothing is straight forward as that. The power source they want to mine isn't a mineral, but a creature, and someone's keeping secrets about it. I think the odds against Hyrath were 9 or 10 to 1. Hyrath is stronger than all the other 9, but when ganged up on they slowly lose ground.

Luckily, there's a ship out there called the Dragon. It hasn't been seen for 20 years, but it's strong enough to change the tide of the war. But man oh man, the secrets are deep!

Spoilers (sort of!)--

I'll try to do this without spoiling it to bad. I loved this book. In the end, Pendar has to make a choice that ripped me in two. On one side the choice is simple and he makes the only choice he could. It's the one that completes his character arc and shows how far he's come from that self-centered man at the beginning. He's the best choice to accomplish the goal AND he's really good at it after making the choice.

On the other side, Pendar finally realizes how important other people are in his life. He notices Pavott and gets a small glimpse of what life with love in it could be. This happens right when/after/almost same time as the choice is made. The romantic in me was screaming, "Nooooooo!" I was hoping there was another solution, but I knew there couldn't be. Ironically, the romantic in me was also satisfied with the choice and the outcome in a perfectly tragic but hopeful way.

That probably doesn't make any sense, but it will. It will. Just read the book when it comes out!

I give Dragon of the Stars by Alex Cavanaugh a 5. I am still thinking about that ending and it's been almost a week!

My rating scale for book reviews.

1-5 scale and what it means:

- 1: I couldn't even finish it / just plain bad
- 2: I hope I didn't pay for this / disappointing
- 3: I didn't hate it, but it was still missing something / forgettable but inoffensive
- 3.5: On the line between good and ok / like, not love
- 4: Solid mind candy / worth reading
- 4.5: So very close to perfection! / must read
- 5: I could not put it down and I'm still thinking about it! / a true treasure

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## **Randy says**

Lt, Commander Aden Pendar thought his whole future was laid out. As First Officer of the Hyrathian warship Ryzell and the son of a Duke, expected his coming evaluation would earn him a Captain's rank and his own ship. The plan then was to ask the Queen for her daughter's hand in marriage, securing his rise in power.

Two things waylaid those plans.

The alliance declared war against Hyrathia over their claim to the planet Kavil and his captain told him, while technically proficient at command, he wasn't ready for a captaincy. He had no people skills when it came to dealing with the crew. That would come in time.

But not now.

And the war began going badly for Hyrathia. While no other race could stand up to them, the combined Alliance was getting it done.

Hyrathia's salvation lay in a ship that had disappeared twenty years before. The Dragon had had a new weapon system that laid waste to an enemy, giving Hyrathia victory, then the scientist that had developed it, had flown off without a word. No one knew where or why. It had not been seen, found, since.

Aden's new mission was to take a handpicked crew, find the lost Dragon, and save Hyrathia from being wiped out.

A tall order.

But there was much more going on Aden was to learn.

Space opera by one of the finest young writers going today.

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## **Matt Ely says**

original review @ JC's Book Haven.

Hyrath's strongest ship, now missing for twenty years, entered his mind. The weapons she possessed, unique and unreplicated in any ship since, were legendary.

Shame the real Dragon never had a chance to earn her colors, he thought.

### The Good

I took my time and with *Dragon of the Stars* as I didn't want to miss too much on the first read through. The universe was really well done for what was there. I loved Aden as the hero of the story. He wasn't perfect and had plenty of flaws but I found myself rooting for him. The ship battles were fun and exciting but I wish they lasted a bit longer than they did.

### The Bad

I wish I got to learn more about the other alliance races. I would have liked to know just how different they were from each other.

### The Romance

Aden, while trying to impress the Princess Arabella by getting his own ship and earning his promotion to captain, starts to get to know Tamsin Pavott who serves on his ship as the weapons officer.

## Conclusion

Overall, I really enjoyed Dragon of the Stars. One of the better space operas that I've had the chance to read by far. If you enjoy space travel and space battles, you will want to give this one a read.

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## **Beverly McClure says**

Do you like space ships and dragons? How about war and danger and an ambitious lieutenant commander who wants a ship of his own? If you enjoy stories with all of these, then take a look at Author Alex J. Cavanaugh's latest novel, DRAGON OF THE STARS. I think you'll be happy you did.

Now, space stories are not what I normally read, but this one intrigued me. First of all, it has dragons. Yes, Lieutenant Commander Aden Pendar's mother raises pet dragons. I would have liked to see more of the lady and her pets. Before reading this novel, I'd heard a lot about the Kargrandes, but hadn't a clue what they were. Now I know. Nope, I'm not telling. That's part of the enjoyment of the book, making these fascinating discoveries.

The author also adds a tiny bit of romance, Aden has a thing for Arabella, the queen's daughter, though he realizes nothing is about to happen between them unless he can get a ship of his own. There's also Ensign Pavott, who I really like and think that she's a better match for Aden than Arrabella. Nope, not telling what happens there either.

DRAGON OF THE STARS is never dull. Something's always happening. There's fighting, but no gory details. There's suspense. Will Aden's dreams of having his own ship and the lovely princess come true? When it comes time to make a crucial decision, will Aden make the right one? You may be surprised. A very good read. Enjoy.

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