



## **Drysine Legacy**

*Joel Shepherd*

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The legendary battle-carrier UFS Phoenix is on the run in Outer Neutral Space. Lieutenant Commander Erik Debogande and Major Trace Thakur are determined to use neutral territory to broker a peace between humanity's warring factions, away from Fleet's strong arm. But as machinations in Fleet Command send a legendary warrior from Trace's past on a sworn path to kill her, there arises in the territory of an insectoid foe an ancient enemy from the nightmares of Spiral history, bent on Phoenix's destruction...

## **Drysine Legacy Details**

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Author : Joel Shepherd

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## **From Reader Review Drysine Legacy for online ebook**

### **Kathleen says**

Very good! Even better than book 1. Eager for book 4. Good chemistry between Erik and Trace, but I hope the author lets the sexual tension merely simmer. No need to fill the pages with it. This series has plenty going for it already. And I like to keep guessing.

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### **Marc\_laliberte says**

Second book of the series. This is not a stand-alone book, and having read "Renegade" is necessary if ones want to make sense of it. More characters are introduced, and some unlikely friends are met. The story is well built and internally consistent. Characters make sense, except maybe for Fleet Command machinations which are a bit far-fetched. I don't know, I understand that bad guys are sometimes necessary to build up a story, but there's need to be a reason...

Joel Shepherd remains an excellent author of SF, and this book is well worth reading. Looking forward the next and presumably final book.

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### **Stan Waters says**

#### **A roundabout way to get to the next installment**

The first installment in this series was a high energy page burner. This one, not so much. Many of the chapters were packed with dialogue and subject matter that the reader was well aware of and was being repeated for those characters now "present". While I understand the logic of this tool, it quickly becomes tiresome when repeated through half a dozen encounters. The author knew very early on where he wanted to end up. He did not however, know how he was going to get there specifically until he began to type. Now that a clear plan is in place, I hope the next installment takes a more direct route to the objective.

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### **Chris Thomas says**

This took way too long to get going, once it did, it was OK. Ended well. Good setup for the final book.

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### **Dan says**

Quite good. On to the next book.

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## **E.J. Fisch says**

One of my favorite things about reading a series -- especially a series like this where I've grown to really love the characters -- is revisiting those characters. I was attached to them after just a few pages in *Renegade*, and even though I started this book almost immediately after completing the first, it still felt like I was being reunited with old friends whom I hadn't seen in years.

Erik and Trace continue to be wonderfully complex and well-written characters, and I absolutely love their banter and the way they bounce off one another. Erik's relationship with his spacer crew and Trace's relationship with her marines are both humorous yet realistic and powerful. As a whole, the crew of the Phoenix really is one big family, a theme that is revisited several times throughout the book. I also loved how so many of the other characters got a chance to shine too. In the first book, the only POV characters were Erik, Trace, and Lisbeth, but many of the secondary characters still made a valuable contribution. Now some of those characters have become POV characters, and I absolutely love the way this was handled. They probably wouldn't have been able to carry these scenes in Book 1 because the readers didn't know them well enough. But like I said, now they're like old friends.

Erik and Trace are both essentially trying to figure out who they are and where they belong, and events in the series have been such that they're both getting pushed in directions neither of them expected to go when the whole story started. We see Erik take a big step at the end of this book, even more so than in *Renegade*. The jury is still out on Trace, though we're seeing hints of her inner conflict as she tries to figure out what she believes in. Her development is more of a slow burn, but if it happened any faster, it wouldn't be realistic for her character.

I also enjoyed seeing a bigger variety of alien species in this story. All the political/diplomatic aspects of the relationships between all of these civilizations help give the world (or should I say universe) a lot more depth. As with *Renegade*, it gave me a lot of *Mass Effect* vibes, and I love that.

In terms of story, there was a lot of building on events and plot points from Book 1 that I'd either forgotten about or that seemed insignificant at the time. In *Renegade* it's established that there's something big going on behind the scenes, and in *Dryside Legacy* all the clues finally start to make sense and come together to form a bigger picture. I shouldn't spoil anything, but...sentient machine race that's been lying dormant for thousands of years? Yes please. This is a story about alliances, secrets, camaraderie, and trust, all with awesome combat sequences (which I'm pretty sure contributed to an absolutely insane dream I had the other night). The tension in the last several chapters of the book left me exhausted.

All in all this was an excellent second installment in this series. I'm not sure if I liked it quite as much as the first one, ergo my actual rating is more like 4.5 stars -- parts of it moved a little slow and I had hoped Colonel Khola would play a larger and more threatening role. But of course there's still a third installment coming, one that will likely contain a variety of highly-anticipated final showdowns, and even when the plot moves a little slow, the characters are still consistent. I can't wait to find out what happens next!

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## **Jon Abbott says**

The first book in the series was an excellent action adventure / space opera, with a marine woman commander who really knew her tactics and her strategy, and how to use all the necessary weapons. This one

is so blah that I gave it up today in favor of other, better book on my sidetable.

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### **John says**

Outstanding reading entertainment. I enjoyed reading this book too much ... Numerous nights staying up until the early AM. So good. I have no idea how Joel keeps all this information organized while writing, but whatever method he's using, it's working.

Heavy hitting action and adventure. Science Fiction Overdose. God forbid the new captain meet a girlfriend ... he'll be toast. LOL!

I must add, that as an artist (digital illustrator, graphic designer, art director), I'm incredibly inspired by the characters in Joels books. I slip right into the book like well worn battle armor and my imagination takes flight. Love it!

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### **Mike Finn says**

"The Drysine Legacy" carries straight of from "Renegade" but manages to crank up the complexity and broaden the scope of the story to include even more aliens and to get deeper into the AI threat.

Like its predecessor, it's a long book but the pages fly by and the story never drags. I always wanted to know what would happen next.

I felt that this book was less character driven than the last one. The intricacies of the plot dominate the book and drive most of the action. Yet the characters DO continue to develop and their relationships shift in realistic ways.

The action scenes (and there are many of them) are outstanding: easy to visualise, massive in scale and very fast moving.

I particularly enjoyed getting to see various aliens in the story develop so that I understood more about their point of view and their motivation. In some ways, I found it easier to empathise with the aliens than I did to get inside the heads of the Marines.

The AI in the story is well imagined and avoids the clichés and simplifications that picture AIs as just big computers who are scarily smarter than us. This AI has a strong personality that is hard ignore and impossible to second guess. In some ways that's much scarier than Skynet. I found myself liking "her" and then realised that I had no way of knowing if I was just being conned. Which is exactly the dillema for the human crew.

This is well written space opera on a massibe scale that continues to deliver excitement and action as well as big ideas and intriguing characters.

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## **Mike Maurer says**

This is a good second step in the story of the Spiral Wars. Since we already know the main characters, we jump right into what happens next. And what a jump.

I like stories that have layers. Here, I'm thinking one direction for how things are interconnected and wham, I got hit with something far bigger. We get more depth to the various alien races, both good and bad. More of the history is hinted at. I like the intersection of old and new, how the old can come back to haunt the present.

Tif rocks. She represents all that is good in the universe.

I'm looking forward to pulling the third in the series off of the shelf. This is solid space opera.

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## **Alex Peterson says**

### **Really enjoying this series**

Just finished reading this second book in the series and really like the direction it's going! The writing style is great and the characters have great personality including the non-humans. Highly recommend these books (at least the first two) to science fiction fans!

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## **John says**

A little talkier than the opener, I think, but still top drawer military SF--with great action scenes, pacing, character chemistry, and widening of the overall stakes. Unlike the first episode, there is also some acknowledgement that ammo and other supplies actually need to be replenished. The cast of aliens is strongly reminiscent of that in C.J. Cherryh's CHANUR series--one type even speaks in pidgin like the Mahendo'sat--and Shepherd's prose, particularly when describing battles, is similar too. Hope he can keep up the pressure in future episodes, because it's been a fun ride so far.

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## **John says**

### **Good read**

Interesting book. Never got the feeling that the main characters were actually in danger of being killed, in spite of impossible odds. For a long book, it would have made sense to show more despair at being outlawed and on the run from everything and everyone they ever knew. The only real doubts Eric had were about being captain and he obviously was qualified.

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## Chip says

Thought the first book in the series not particularly memorable, but good enough to read further. Quit the second book halfway though - just got worse and worse, and eventually I decided to stop wasting my time. Basically, a bad David Drake novel. And made me realize why Drake doesn't include aliens in his Honor Harrington novels - he can't write them, and knows it. Shephard can't either, but unfortunately doesn't know that. Most of the aliens aren't alien at all - just humans in costume.

I started highlighting particularly bad bits for future reference (as an aside, always a really bad sign - and probably to some extent a bit of a self-fulfilling prophecy). A few:

"Captain Jen [an alien] nodded, intensely serious. Erik had never met a barabo quite so intensely serious."

"Skah answered reluctantly, the very picture of a boy being told to be good and work hard even if he didn't want to." [Which is particularly horrible because Skah is an alien child, but apparently one that acts just like a human boy.]

"There was real fear in his dark eyes. But not cowardice, because this fear was not fear for himself."

"So long ago it makes my brain hurt to think of it."

[As a (female) marine Sargent, apologizing for several crew deaths that were to some extent her fault, leaves the acting captain's quarters]: "Good, now get.' And [he] gave her a whack on the backside as she departed, because it was what the Captain had always done to crew feeling sorry for themselves." [Seriously, WTF? Jumped up Lieutenant slaps a marine officer on the ass, telling her to get back to work?]

Really, it's just bad. And I say that having read and enjoyed his prior Cassandra Kresnov series - which I now realize shared some of the shortcomings found here. Eg, the protagonist there, even though an AI, seemed no different (other than super competency and ability) from any human. I think it didn't bother me there because part of the story was that she was so advanced she was basically human - but in actuality I suspect was largely because Shephard isn't an advanced enough writer to write convincingly from an alien perspective (which I appreciate probably isn't an easy task).

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## Barry Bozeman says

The Spiral Wars continue and even improve as The Phoenix and crew learn of treachery at the highest levels and find an ancient Drysine Queen - one of the thought long dead synthetic machine sentients and begin a quest to locate and retrieve proof that the Alo has aligned with the Deepynines - a different machine AI synthetic intelligence. That proof will expose the leadership of the fleet as complicit in allying the humans with the wrong team serving to make the humans the unwitting accomplice in a Deepynine - Alo conspiracy to have their natural enemies eliminate each other.

This is a great series.

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