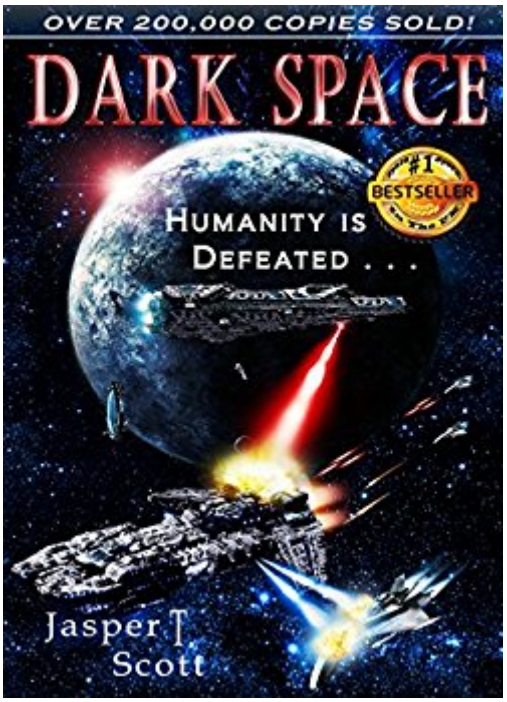
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# Dark Space




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## Synopsis

From USA Today Bestselling Author Jasper T. ScottHUMANITY IS DEFEATEDTen years ago the Sythians invaded the galaxy with one goal: to wipe out the human race.THEY ARE HIDINGNow the survivors are hiding in the last human sector of the galaxy: Dark Space--once a place of exile for criminals, now the last refuge of mankind.THEY ARE ISOLATEDThe once galaxy-spanning Imperium of Star Systems is left guarding the gate which is the only way in or out of Dark Space--but not everyone is satisfied with their governance.AND THEY ARE KILLING EACH OTHERFreelancer and ex-convict Ethan Ortane is on the run. He owes crime lord Alec Brondi 10,000 sols, and his ship is badly damaged. When Brondi catches up with him, he makes an offer Ethan can’t refuse. Ethan must infiltrate and sabotage the Valiant, the Imperial Star Systems Fleet carrier which stands guarding the entrance of Dark Space, and then his debt will be cleared. While Ethan is still undecided about what he will do, he realizes that the Imperium has been lying and putting all of Dark Space at risk. Now Brondi’s plan is starting to look like a necessary evil, but before Ethan can act on it, he discovers that the real plan was much more sinister than what he was told, and he will be lucky to escape the Valiant alive. . . .

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dark Space by Jasper T. Scott is fairly well-written Sci-Fi with some rather unique technology concepts. My main reason for not rating it higher is that the plot is so depressing. Very little seems to "go right" for the main character, Ethan, who is an ex-smuggler and in debt to a loan shark, Bondi, has borrowed money to purchase a space freighter with which he hopes to make a living for himself and a young girl, Alara. Bondi calls in the debt and captures both Ethan and Alara, forcing Ethan to disguise himself as a member of the defense force and to carry a deadly virus (unknown to Ethan) back to the defense force's main space battleship, the Valiant. Alara, meanwhile, is forced into prostitution. The virus wipes out 99% of the Valiant's 50,000 crew members and is subsequently captured by Bondi's forces. Ethan and the remaining Valiant crew barely escape Bondi through a space portal aboard a smaller space cruiser, the Defiant. The story continues in a second sequel. Dark Space is appropriately named.

I was pleased to see another deep space SF novel and eagerly started to read. After the first couple of chapters, I put it away. The ultra traditional gender roles seemed such a throwback to SF of the 50s -- noble male with exceptional intellectual/warrior/piloting skills protecting beautiful, talented damsel who is only at risk because the male has gotten himself into a jam. Yuck. "Big Mouth Brondi" or whatever the toadlike crime boss was called -- really? Future society will return to monikers from prohibition days and mafia thugs? The dude has enough juice to command a fleet and a sizable economic enterprise, with high level tech capability. I would think a more grownup name would be appropriate. And calling Alara, an adult person with high-level tech and science capabilities developed on the agri-world with her parents and now an assistant pilot on a space ship, the insulting and downright dumb nickname "Kiddie" made me put the book away a second time. Even if Ethan was pulled out of cryostatis from the 50s and found himself in this new world with incredible tech, he wouldn't call an intelligent adult professional woman such a demeaning name - and get away with it. Or does Alara call him Snookums?Once past the juvenile relationships, the space flight, ship designs and mechanics all felt right. I liked the notion of Dark Space as a last resort refuge from the alien invasion and thought the idea of another alien race who could be an ally promising. Character development is the weakest part of the stories. Ethan has a sad story but is such a stock "macho with a (broken) heart" cliche it is hard to relate. I did put the book away twice

but came back with the hope that there had to be some action and a story line more sophisticated than the dated, simplistic, and maddeningly retro gender roles of the main characters. Final comment, the surprise at the end seemed implausible to the max. The timeline doesn't work, nor does the maturity and organizational competence of the character. I'd have been fine with his being a fighter pilot, medical officer, or leader of a beleaguered remnant human community, but as Supreme Overlord with a chip, it seemed overdone. Just my view. BTW, I do recognize and appreciate that women were prominent as pilots and officers, and appreciate that, but their characters were one dimensional in the main.But I do look forward to book 2 and already ordered book 3!

Well, I'll say that the opening is a bit slower than I would have expected in a "space opera". The young and beautiful sidekick was way too whinny and should have been put out the nearest airlock with no suit. How could such a spoiled princess exist in such a rough and tumble group of war beaten people. Honestly, I thought the same thing for the main character. Several times I just want to yell "would someone just grow a pair. Man or woman don't care. " Only when the main character was forced into a corner did he finally wake up and started interacting with the world instead of letting everyone and everything run over him. He was given an impossible chance start over with a clean slate; even if the slate stolen and stapled to him. It was still handed to him on a golden platter with a single string attached. If he wasn't so self absorbed he could have solved this problem before he left with a smile on his face. This story-line has plenty of potential with horsepower to spare. It's cruising down the story street leaving questions in its wake. I hope this wimp of a hero can stop blubbering over the past long enough to look around and see the incredible opportunity that fell right into his lap (actually poured down his throat). I know that everyone has doubts and regrets about the past its human nature to look back and wish you could correct everything. Regrets can cast a huge shadow it reshapes your thoughts and judgement. But when you're in the hot-seat to save humanity you better pop the futures' Xanax and chase it down with some space whiskey and go out there and get your s*** done! Sitting there crying into a glass of purified water with a slice of hydroponically grown lemon doesn't seem to be "B.E.M" (bug eyed monster) laser proof.

Sorry, but I gave up after the first chapter. This book breaks three of my cardinal rules right off the bat.1. Spacecraft that "fly" like they're in an atmosphere.2. Dialog where every 5th word is a Battlestar Galatica style profanity.3. Stories that immediately strike me like they're written by a high school freshman.Unfortunately, this book nailed all three in the first chapter. My recommendation is

to just say no.

What a bunch of tripe. Both Father and son, separated and forever lost both put on decepticon chips and hop on board the same ship. This not knowing the other even lives, though of course they each looked hard n for years for the other.Then while all the others are fooled they know!!!One if there was known chips out there there would be special measures taken to protect against it. Destroys every precept to this book period.If a childish, tactless romp without a real goal. Then this is for you. I gave a 3 I was so desperate for something, but it should bear a two, maybe 2.5.

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