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Empire In Crisis



Synopsis

The Empire is a political entity that encompasses hundreds of colonized worlds united by a common language (Esperanto) and under a single individual, the Emperor. But the Empire is getting old and creaky. Its government is riddled with corruption and is choking on red tape. The Space Force is bloated with the incompetent who have risen to high rank due to nepotism and patronage. The Emperor has been assassinated and the Empire is surrounded by alien races that are becoming more hostile and more powerful as time goes on. When an exploration fleet in the rift between sections of the spiral arm are attacked by an unknown race, the dead Emperor's clone-son, now on the throne, recognizes that the Empire is standing at the edge of an abyss and must find a way to not only win this new war against the alien aggressors but also overcome the inertia of the arrogant Space Force officers who are more ready to overthrow their Emperor than fight the war. Fans of military SF action will find it in this book. Excerpt: "Ah, not so fast, Ren. We've just picked up five, I repeat, five unidentified ships heading this way at point eight cee. If they maintain this speed, they'll get here in about thirteen minutes. Here's the interesting thing. They're coming from the same direction as your longitudinal signal. I think it's highly likely that they came out of that same wormhole just a short while before you found it. Standby while we try to make contact with the rest of the squadron." Logan stepped closer to Montoya's Command Chair. When Montoya turned his head in Logan's direction, Logan leaned over and said, "If they came out of this wormhole, there may be more of them emerging at any moment. I recommend we pull back to extreme detection range." Montoya nodded. "See to it immediately, SubCommander." Logan went over to the Helm Station and told the Helm Officer what he wanted done. Detection of ships using warp drive was limited to a range of just under 11 light minutes or 200 million kilometers. At Bird of Prey's maximum speed of 4.4 times the speed of light, travelling that distance would take just 2.5 minutes. The trick was to stay in contact with the relay ship by longitudinal wave transmission. That wasn't a problem for Logan's ship since they knew exactly where to point their transmitter, but the relay ship had to be kept updated via data transmission as to what Bird of Prey was doing so that it could adjust its transmitter to compensate. Logan checked the chronometer for elapsed time since the relay ship had begun detecting the bogeys. Almost four minutes had gone by. He wondered about the bogey's speed. If they were capable of faster speeds, why not do so? Could it be that their detection range was shorter than the squadron's light cruisers? His thoughts were interrupted by the voice of Black Eagle's commander. "Oh Christ! Ren, those five bogeys have just boosted to four point six cee! They'll be here within ninety seconds! We haven't been able to make contact with

any other ship yet! I'm taking us to Battle Stations, Ren! Stand by! Bring us to Battle Stations too. Montoya's voice had been calm. Logan wondered if his CO's stomach was churning just as much as his own was right now. Logan put his Command helmet back on and used the virtual controls to sound the Battle Stations alarm. We're at Battle Stations, Comma! Logan's sentence was cut off by Magnasson's voice. Okay, they're dropping back down now! They've gone sub-light! They'll be within weapons range any second now! Stay on your toes everybody! We hold our fire unless I say otherwise! Here they come, Ren! OH, GOD, THEY'RE FIR!

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Customer Reviews

We start with a prologue that sets the stage and explains the subsequent actions. We then join an exploration group that is mapping a series of wormholes when they are set upon by an unlucky 13 ships of slightly superior capability. One explorer ship escapes to warn the Empire of a hostile race. The following is a description of actions taken by an emperor to combat incompetence, nepotism, revolt, and a deadly enemy. The action is very fast and compelling, but as with this kind of story, the

solutions are a little convenient. Nothing gross such as to cause one to say that it is unbelievable. Mr. Wehr even throw in a few scary scenarios when it looks as if the plan is going to go awry, but everything works out. After all, this is a story and our side wins in the end, right? Nevertheless there are numerous twists and turns that keeps one at the edge of their seat with all questions resolved in the end. Mr. Wehr is a good writer, and this book is a worthwhile read.

Dietmar Wehr has written another very enjoyable space opera in Empire in Crisis. This story starts with the ascension of most of an alien race which allows a more primitive race to capture suddenly crewless starships. They then meet the human empire which is on the verge of another alien race invasion and a possible civil war. A new conflict starts between humanity and the aggressive aliens. The story continues to become more intense as humanity tries to survive this attack and defend itself. This new series is off to a great start. Please keep them coming.

Fantastic. Really enjoyed storyline of potential civil war, power and corruption, and great action scenes with unknown invading force. Liked how the Emperor had to overcome corrupt military structure while dealing with unknown and hostile invading force. Very interesting how battle strategy was developed by Admiral Logan to deal with this hostile force. Really looking forward to next book in series. Have enjoyed many other books by same author. Really good character development.

Mr. Wehr is an excellent writer. His plot is believable (as much as any space opera can be said to be believable). His characters are interesting. His battle scenes are well done. The political scenes are also believable. The Physics of space flight and communication are stretched but not too badly, it could happen as he describes. All in all a very good read!

As the author says "love live space opera" and he does the genre proud. Wonderful characters; I really look forward to their development in subsequent books (I truly hope that there are more). I especially enjoyed the Emperor; fantastic job on him. Lots of action and intrigue.

I read a LOT of "space opera" and general Science Fiction (going back to the ANALOG and Robert A Heinlein days) - this one was better than GOOD. Dietmar Wehr balances technology with the personal side very well, explains what needs to be explained, but doesn't drone on. Contrast the older Honor Harrington books by David Weber compared to the newer ones - Wehr writes much more IMHO like the "legacy" (better) Weber. Now - on to book TWO :)

A lovely tale of an old space-based empire beset with in-fighting and political maneuverings. Unfortunately, other species are also vying for control of adjacent space whom the old empire tries to keep at bay with its technological advantages. Then a new species is encountered that has considerable technological power of their own and the old empire is in crisis. Like many crises, old ways and established people must be displaced and new ways and people must advance or the empire will lose. This tale examines the strategic moves that must accompany any such changes in order to win and maintain the empire. This one is well worth the read ! Here's hoping for a follow-on to this lovely tale.

The action seemed to be pretty slow at first, and I almost put the book down. Then enter the Emperor. Wehr leaves us with a wealth of new possibilities for more great action. I hope the series continues soon.

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