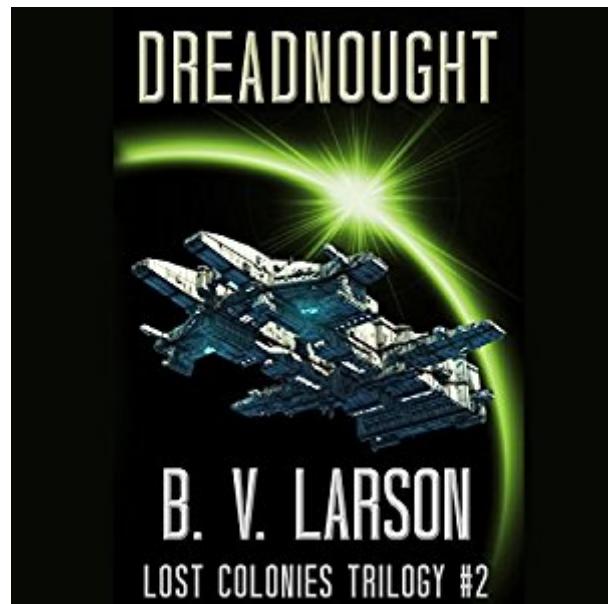


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Dreadnought: Lost Colonies, Book 2



Synopsis

Captain William Sparhawk flies Earth's single starship on a voyage of exploration. His crew of veteran spacers begins the mission with high hopes and the best of intentions, but the universe has other plans. Instead of space merchants and potential allies, they discover Earth's impending doom. Sparhawk must decide whether to hunt down enemy scouts to keep Earth's new starship a secret or to head home to warn Star Guard of the danger. Either way, he's ignited an interstellar war. Dreadnought, the second book of the Lost Colonies Trilogy, is a novel of military science fiction by best-selling author B. V. Larson.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I liked the first volume of Mr. Larson's "Lost Colonies" series, and hoped the second volume would be as good. It wasn't ... it was better! Captain Sparhawk sets out in the Beta battle cruiser salvaged in book one on a mission of exploration and, possibly, diplomacy. His relationship with his headquarters is difficult, and the mission is further complicated by sharing command with his aunt Helen of Granholm, an "oldie" who has been given authority over non-combat decisions. The dreadnought in question is a formidable Stroj battleship that relentlessly stalks him, intent on destroying him and his ship. The byplay between Sparhawk and the other characters, particularly his aunt, is engaging; the space battles are intense, and the Stroj are as bad as their name. I am eagerly awaiting the next volume!

I can't wait. I've been reading SciFi since 1953 and still read it voraciously. I've read all the Greats - Asimov, Van Vogt, Norton, Heinlein - the list is endless. This guy Larson is GOOD. Really, really good. I'm a Physicist and Engineer who's up on Quantum Physics/mechanics and find it easy to shoot holes in a lot of speculative crap that infests a lot of today's work, but as I said, B.V. is GOOD. Not just tech-savvy-wise, but as an author and character-development expert (and superb writer). Very impressed. His other works are also outstanding. I'm looking forward to his publishing #3 (in his spare time lol) but I'd like to see the monster beta (no pun intended) back off permanently or go away because somehow being face-to Giant face with her intimately kind of creeps me out. I know it's a personal thing, but my style of reading is immersive. Anyway, can't say enough good about B.V.

On the Defiant, Captain Sparhawk and his crew depart Earth and for the first time in 150 years are about to cross a bridge in space and travel to a different solar system. Unfortunately for them, they had no maps of the bridge and it could be a one way trip that leaves them stuck in hyperspace. They manage to find the exit of the bridge and the discover the a lost colony. One that was fearful and paranoid that refuses to answer the Defiant's hails and finally decides to attack. After repelling the attack, Sparhawk is invited to the colonies space station to talk and while there, the Stroj arrive and it leads to a fight between the Defiant and the Stroj pirate ship. Beating back the attack after destroying 3 of the Stroj pirate ships, the Defiant returns to the colony space station for repair. After leaving the station, the Defiant is led on a multi system chase where the Stroj attempt to trap and destroy them. After destroying the original pirate ships, the Defiant finds itself back in Earth's solar system with a Stroj dreadnought bent on Earth's destruction and the Stroj wanting Captain Sparhawk's body so they can take pieces of it for their half man half machine bodies.

With Dreadnought, BV Larson starts to uplift this series from the YA ghetto into more serious SF literature. Don't worry. We are still following the exploits of breezy (and slightly snidely) Sparhawk on his conquests of both the interstellar and sexual kinds. Zey is still fun, but the focus shifts to the slippery detestable Stroj called Lorn, and Yamada develops some interesting depth. The style remains snarky, with still a good deal of Heinlein, Harry Harrison (Stainless Steel Rat) as well as a little Harry Flashman thrown in for good measure. The Battle Cruiser Defiant has been retrofitted with the best of Earth and Beta technology. It's mission is to re-open channels to the Colonies. On board is Sparhawk's Great Aunt Ambassador Lady Granthome who, of course, is constantly meddling in Sparhawk's affairs. The Colonies discovered turn out to have either fallen back into

primitivism, to be barely clinging to survival, or have technologies far in advance of Earth's. And, oops, there's Stroj constantly attacking him. The style is still YA light, moving the story along a breezy and quick pace. What makes this book better is that the story starts to look beneath the surface of his society. Like Heinlein, Larson uses the story to start challenging accepted social notions like social class, sexual relationships, dynasties, power, and corruption. The last line of the book completely lays open the undercurrent and prepares the reader for the final book of the trilogy. Recommend starting this series from the first book, *Battle Cruiser*, as this book assumes that the reader is already familiar with the world and characters from that book. It does not, for example, go into detail as to why the colonies are "lost" again. So new readers will not understand why the Stroj are the bad guys.

The second book of this trilogy focuses on what happens when selfish narrow minded individuals make short sighted decisions. The makers aren't discovered until the end of this volume but that only ends up putting faces on the group of fools that think they know better than everyone. A parable of sorts on why small groups rarely can effectively "run things". The price now has to be paid in blood, sweat and tears. We see how the strong individual rises to the occasion. The risk takers, not the risk adverse, are front and center here. As more is revealed we see how much Earth has lost. Can it fully recover? 3rd volume should tell. Looking forward to it.

Well paced and extremely engaging. Sparhawk might be a bit of a captain Kirk, but his crew certainly doesn't let that interfere with the mission. The author does well not to hold onto characters that would complicate a situation for the only purpose to create a false drama. What we end up with is some great sci-fi military content and not some watered down story. The plot twists may have been a little telegraphed, but the pacing and story telling made up for it.

Another winner! The *Battle Cruiser* Defiant and her crew were a great read (Loved the interplay with Zye, ha ha!). Exciting and suspenseful--I couldn't put it down. Couldn't wait to read the third one, and was wondering more about the back-story on Earth's cataclysm (Fear not reader... the third book explains all of it and more!). I am now a B.V. Larson fan!

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