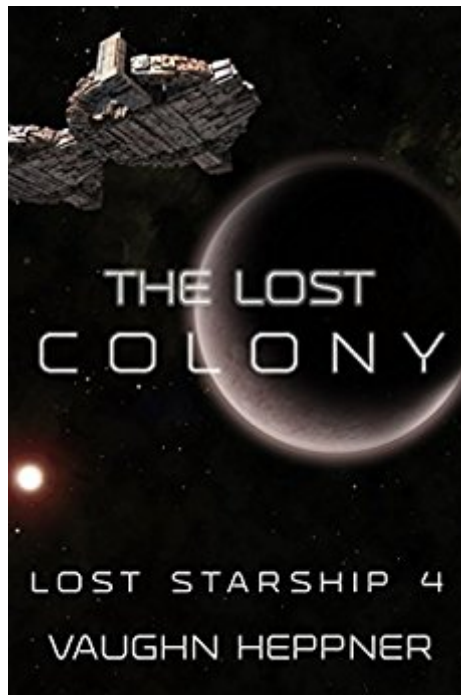


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The Lost Colony (Lost Starship Series Book 4)



Synopsis

We fought the invading New Men to a standstill and defeated the alien Destroyer sent to obliterate Earth. The worst should be over, but it's not. Perfect android replicas are impersonating high-level officials so trust is failing. Worse, the New Men have found allies with an impenetrable stealth technology. This time, however, Earth is going on the offensive. Admiral Fletcher is headed to the Caelum Quadrant with a Grand Fleet. He's to liberate the captured planets and find the enemy homeworld. What he isn't supposed to do is die. The only one who can save humanity has been grounded. Captain Maddox is under suspicion because he's half New Man. But he's not going to stop. He's found something unbelievable. Now, he needs Starship Victory—an ancient, alien spacecraft—the AI Galyan, Meta, Sergeant Riker and the others to help him tear the greatest secret of all from the enemy. Maddox and his crew must succeed or humanity will drown in a sea of human extinction. THE LOST COLONY is the fourth book in the LOST STARSHIP SERIES.

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Customer Reviews

It has been months since Captain Maddox and his ship and crew defeated the destroyer. Captain

Maddox is on an intelligence gathering mission to determine who has been following him around when he is drugged and kidnapped. He manages to get himself free of the kidnappers but finds there are some very advanced androids have been brought into play on Earth but the extent of the androids on Earth is unknown, as well as how they got there. Captain Maddox is contacted by a hologram of Professor Ludendorff who insists that he return to the Xerxes System to free him from his captivity, which turns out to be something that Star Watch does not want him doing. He ends up leaving in Victory against the wishes of his superiors. And after reaching the Xerxes system, Victory is transported 1000 light years from Earth to find a dyson sphere that circles a star out to 1 AU, and that he was not contacted by the professor but the last remaining builder and the the Swarm still exists. And Captain Maddox and his crew must survive and find a way home, over 1000 light years away, if they are to warn anyone.

The Lost Starship series continues to be an entertaining read with this, the fourth, instalment in the series. The "Old men" desperately needs to fight back against the New Men but, as the book blurb states, the New Men continues to throw gravel into the machinery. As usual the paranoid and stupid humans react in ways that are not exactly the most efficient ones when it comes to achieving an actual victory. Thus Maddox is left to his own devices in order to save the "Old men" even though Admiral Fletcher does his best to clobber the New Men fleet. It is another fun adventure story in The Lost Starship universe. It is a bit of a roller coaster ride with the usual elements such as Maddox and his friends (including the Al Galyan) being their usual ass-kickers, some fleet action, some ground action and a whole lot of conspiracies, enemy infiltration and such like nastiness by the New Men and their androids which are almost undistinguishable from real humans. Our old acquaintance, Professor Ludendorff, does his best to help keep the confusion going and, as usual, it is difficult to really know which side he is on. Mostly it feels like it is a third one, his own. While various parties are slugging it out in space and on the ground the search for alien artefacts, in particular those from the founders, continues in the hope of getting the upper hand against the New Men. What Maddox & Co finds this time exceeds their wildest dreams and it is not only artefacts that they find. The book ends the current story arc and it is a fairly satisfactory ending which, at the same time, leaves plenty of openings for a continuation of the adventures in this Science Fiction universe. These books are nicely written and easy to read adventure stories. The characters are quite colourful and often likable. I for one hope that the author has plans to create a new story arc which takes off from where this one ended.

A solid fourth book in the series and I find myself hoping that there will be several more. The story seems to have room for a variety of directions to move into, and the characters offer a good blend of personalities and depth that differentiates them in their own unique ways. As usual I cannot give this book 5 stars as I've started to reserve that for comparison to my all time greats and favorite authors such as Andre Norton or Alan Dean Foster, but with that being said these books are possibly some of the best E-Books I've read. I appreciate that the author has created characters I was drawn to rather than some other authors who create a character, give them a blatantly obvious name for greatness, and then shove the characters brilliance down your throat to the point where you start to hate them (said authors will not be named). For anyone looking for a fun, and somewhat suspenseful / intriguing story with characters you can root for, then this is a strong book series for consideration. I am half way through Book 5 when writing this and am still hoping for at least one more in the series if not more. Granted, this is an E-book, so an editor apparently did not proof read before publishing, and there are numerous mistakes; small gripe overall.

This series keeps getting better and better with each new book. Book four brings together much of the story arc from the first three books, while also setting the stage for a new one. Looking forward to the next installment and more from Captain Maddox and the crew.

I'm a sucker for Vaughn Heppner books. "The Lost Colony," the fourth in the Lost Starship series, started off a little weaker than many of Heppner's works. And I mean that only in the sense that his others charged out of the first several chapters like buckshot out of a Remington. This is a more thoughtful, a more cerebral series, one that takes in politics of race, body identity and position. Captain Maddox is a half breed. He's better and smarter than most men, but he's looked at with suspicion. He's attracted a crew of castaways who perform at their best when stressed. And being with Maddox is just a fraction of a second away from getting obliterated in space. Lots of forces want him dead. This novel finds Maddox at odds with his superiors in his intelligence organization. They want him to stay put and not head out into the unknown to rescue a professor few trust. But the new men, Earth's arch enemies, are still out there and want to subjugate the lower forms of humanity for their vile plan. And there are other threats, far greater that await. Only Maddox has the ability to take on the challenge. But he gets put in a prison under the ocean. This just means his crew has to step up. Heppner answers a lot of the questions he's built up in the earlier parts of his series. The best has got to be the unveiling of the Builders. As I recall the events and plot twists in this book, I think this may be the best so far in the series. I read it in two sittings

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