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Call To Arms (Blood On The Stars Book 2)



Synopsis

Call to Arms: Blood on the Stars II War. The word spreads throughout the Confederation – the long-expected Union invasion has come. The enemy is strong, their fleets larger and more powerful than intelligence reports had predicted. They have broken through the forward defenses, sent the Confederation's proud fleets into an ignominious retreat. Captain Tyler Barron and the crew of the battleship Dauntless are lightyears from the front lines, at Archellia, waiting for their damaged battleship to be repaired. Their ship is only just operational, but there is no time. The Confederation forces need every reinforcement they can get, and Barron and his survivors board their vessel and rush to the battle lines. When they get there, they encounter nothing but fleeing ships and shattered fleets. The Confederation is losing the war, falling back steadily, yielding system after system to the invaders. The Union fleets continue inexorably forward, seemingly immune to the supply constraints that have bogged down past invasions. Dauntless finds herself trapped, cut off from the rest of the fleet along with another Confed battleship, and a trio of small escort vessels deep behind the rapidly moving front lines. Barron must make a choice. Pull back, try to find a way to get around the enemy and rejoin the fleet. Or press on, strike deep behind the enemy advance, an almost suicidal thrust toward the Union's main logistical supply base and the one way Tyler Barron can think of to buy the fleet the time it needs to regroup. To survive.

Blood on the Stars Reading Order
Book 1: Duel in the Dark
Book 2: Call to Arms
Book 3: Ruins of Empire (coming Spring 2017)

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Customer Reviews

The Confederation has made a serious mistake. They knew war was coming with the Union star clusters but they grossly underestimated the strength of the Union star fleet. They go into battle with better pilots and fighters but they are seriously out numbered. Meanwhile Captain Tyler Barron is struggling to get his massive flagship repaired after a victorious but costly battle with a single invading battle ship that was testing the fighting ability of the Confederation. His ship's victory over the invader saved the Confederation from fighting a massive war on two fronts. Now he must get his damaged ship repaired and to the front to fight a desperate battle to turn the invaders around and to totally defeat them or his Confederation of planets face death and destruction while being conquered. As they arrive at the front they realize the fight is more desperate than they imagined and the Confederation is already almost nearly defeated. Captain Barron thinks he sees a way to possibly save the Confederation but it a risky and dangerous decision. He sees no other alternative so he has to risk his ship and all of the crew in the effort to win.

Jay Allen is one of the best new Sci-Fi authors that I have found. I love military Sci-Fi and Jay has proven to me to be capable of writing some great books that are enjoyable and full of action. This book is very good and it is the second book of this series that I have read. I like this book and I found it entertaining and I could not stop reading it. I rated it at 5 stars. I can't wait for the next book from this author. I do want to point out that this is the longest book written by Jay Allan. It is almost 396 pages long with continuous action. It is well written and I recommend it to you as a good military Sci-Fi story. If you are looking for a good story and love military Sci-Fi then this is a book you will enjoy reading!

This installment shows a 5-star rating from 81 readers. That just about sums up what's ahead for for the space opera reader who may have overlooked Jay Allan. I mean how in the galaxy can you write a review about the unreviewable dimensions that make Allan's books so excellent. It would be like saying "Wool" is a story about climbing stairs for gosh sakes.

Before you pick this one up to read, please note it is book #2 of a series: you need to have read book one first or this one won't make much sense to you. Without having a spoiler, the author picks up right where he left off with book one in the continuing war. The battle scenes are realistic, and the author paints the picture as if you are right there in the middle of things. What I like most about this series is you really feel as if you know the characters, and feel the raw emotion of the costs of war as you lose friends and loved ones. I stayed up late one night to finish this one, as I didn't want to leave it or walk away to finish another day. The Kindle version of this title is \$4.99 if you enjoyed book one, you will certainly receive more than \$4.99 worth of entertainment value out of this one.

I was somewhat conflicted as to how to rate this book. Being a follow up to the first entry in the series frankly did it no favors. This is a very good military SF story, by the numbers slightly but quite compelling and interesting. However, when compared to the first entry in the series it is a step down in quality. We are back to the familiar trope of flawed but generally good USA-like democracy vs. evil super oppressive ultra totalitarian USSR-like clone, down to almost identical political systems. Not a bad setup and the great characters from book one that made it alive are back, but after the first entry I was hoping for more.

The famous Captain Tyler Barron and crew must once again cut short their refit to travel back to the far side of the Confederation because the Union has finally invaded. Again, the battleship CFS Dauntless is barely operational. So back into battles they go. But this time they are not alone. They partner up with another Confederation battleship this time. With the unconventional, rule-breaking methods of Barron they fight against impossible odds. I give this one 5 stars. It has some of the same kind of errors as the first one, but the chapters all start with the correct information. So the errors are minor.

I really like Mr. Alan's work! This addition to Blood On The Stars is in keeping with his other works in that he has developed a great story line and fantastic characters. I have not read any of his work that I did not like. I highly recommend this and all of the others I have read, Crimson Worlds, Gehenna Dawn, etc. you can't go wrong if you like military SF. I anxiously await the next installment.

Interesting plot. I like the pace, mostly, and the characters, although I sometimes get tired of over-long introspection and/or review of something already described earlier, which takes away from the action. For instance, a fighter pilot engaged in a dogfight thinking about focusing and forgetting everything else, followed by a sentence or two describing what he shouldn't be thinking about. But overall I enjoyed the novel. I've read all the Crimson Worlds series and spinoffs, prequels & sequels, so I will probably keep reading this author's other science fiction sagas.

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