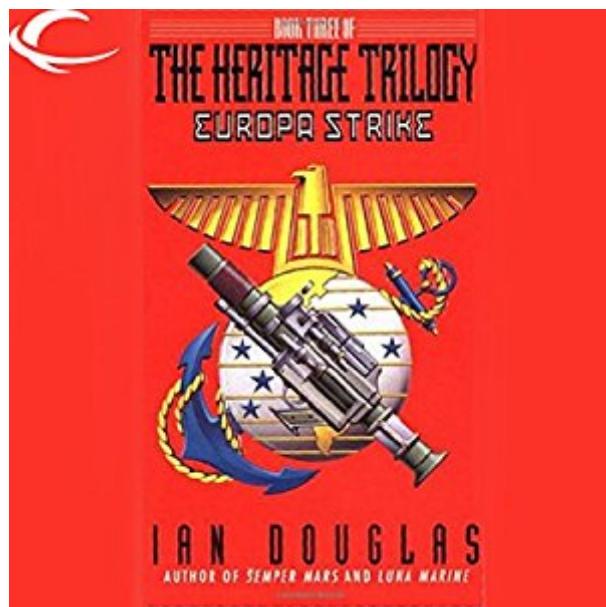


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Europa Strike: Book Three Of The Heritage Trilogy



Synopsis

2040: Ruins of ancient civilization uncovered on Mars reveal startling truths about the creation of humankind. 2042: In the gray dust of the Earth's Moon, an extinct enslaving race left behind more answers, more questions...and a grim warning. 2067: As Earth's warring factions clash in space for scraps of alien technology, a strange artifact lies trapped beneath the ice-locked oceans of Europa: a machine that holds the key to the final human destiny. It is called "The Singer" for the eerie tone it emits. An artificial intelligence built eons ago, it may ultimately solve the mystery of the vanished alien races responsible for the birth and development of humanity. But after decades of war, the hostile nations of Earth care more for power than for knowledge. And now all that stands between the coveted AI and an all-out Chinese assault is a vastly outnumbered contingent of U.S. marines, dug in beneath the baleful red eye of Jupiter. As terrifying events light years distant begin to converge - with confrontation imminent and annihilation inevitable - a secret history of creation and doom must at long last be contended with...if humankind is to finally claim its glorious heritage among the stars.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 14 hours and 23 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: October 19, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B009SZTCEI

Best Sellers Rank: #79 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > High Tech #248 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Adventure #343 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Hard Science Fiction

Customer Reviews

"Not a bad little trilogy, and it moves right along," is the basic comment. There is some quite interesting Marine Corps history embedded and the combat sequences are quite enjoyable. Not a book to keep you on the edge of your seat or up all night, but it is mind candy for the commuter. The specifics of what I do and don't like about this book follow. I enjoyed the science speculations. The

discussion of propulsion systems and the understanding of orbital dynamics was quite good. Or at least didn't send me hunting for my "for dummies" textbooks with a desperate sense of something wrong, here. The combat sequences are good, especially the sense of surrealism when fighting in vacuum, where you don't hear anything that doesn't come over your com. The history lessons were welcome, and not overdone. On the other hand, the politicians once again take a pasting, while the military acts as it never has and with any sort of luck never will in a democracy. This is a weakness of a great deal of military SF, by the way. The authors all seem to luxuriate in the fantasy of a political establishment that either is on the military's side, or too far away to effect the outcome of an action, or (best of all) can be worked around without ever really abrogating the notion of civilian control. Ian Douglas managed to portray a civilian here and there who wasn't completely incompetent. In this trilogy, we get to see a couple civilians who don't end up soldier types, with guns in their hot little hands, portrayed as both competent and good guys. The archeologist characters were interesting. I liked their rationality in the face of discoveries that would tempt anyone into blind credulity.

In the year 2067 an expedition on Europa, the moon of Jupiter, is trying to understand or communicate with something far under the Europan ice and deep within its oceans. It is called "The Singer" and its wail is so loud that it can be heard underwater completely around the moon's oceans. Is it an Europan life form, is it mechanical or is it a chance for first contact with a sentient alien life form? It has been on Europa for over 500,000 years and waiting for someone to talk to. The Chinese know that the Americans are preparing to send deep sea submarines and a military presence to Europa and they want to be the ones who make first contact, even if it means war with the Americans. Meanwhile two large Chinese anti-matter dive space craft are preparing to leave Earth geosynch orbit and head towards Jupiter and a third larger Chinese craft is preparing to also leave but it is going in the opposite direction. The American launch is moved up to make sure that the American military and submarine team arrives at Europa before the Chinese team. China though has intentions of being the only player in the uncovering and controlling of the archeological and scientific discoveries that "The Singer" may represent to the advancement of their power in the world and space program..... It is a continued race to find and recover alien artifacts that are leading to major scientific advances in mankind's capabilities. The various countries do not trust each other and the Chinese intend to achieve their position in the world even if it means war. Can a handful of US Marines control and stop the Chinese even though they are outnumbered and outgunned?

Europa Strike (2000) is the third military SF novel in the Heritage Trilogy, following Luna Marine. The initial work in this sequence is Semper Mars. In the previous volume, Kaitlin's LAV was hit by a positron beam, but she got out of the vehicle. Other Marines took out the positron weapon turret. Jack climbed aboard the UN ship. Then Sam guessed a password. In this novel, Kaitlin Garroway is a Colonel in the US Marine Corps. She is also the daughter of Mark -- Sands of Mars -- Garroway. Now she is commander of the First Marine Space Regiment, consisting of the First Marine Space Expeditionary Force and the Second MSEF. John Charles Ramsey is a Major in the US Marine Corps and is the nephew of David Alexander. Jack is a specialist in artificial intelligence. As a boy, he modified a commercial web agent and named it Sam. Jeff Warhurst is a Major in the US Marine Corps. He is XO of the First Marine Space Expeditionary Force. 1-MSEF is currently enroute to Europa. Frank Kaminski is a Sergeant Major in the US Marine Corps. He is the senior noncom in 1-MSEF. He had served with Mark Garroway on Mars. Zhao Hsiang directs the People's Bureau of Astronomical Sciences. He is fascinated by the Singer on Europa. In this story, twenty-five years later, the People's Republic of China is now reunited. The people in the streets are celebrating. Zhao is more concerned with an alien artifact within the Europan ocean.

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