



## Haven 1: Ascend

*Sandra R. Neeley*

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About This Book

Haven 1: Ascend

Command Warship 1 is home to one of the most feared males in the multi-verse. Zha Quin Tha is Sire to his people, next in line to the throne. He rules his military with an iron hand. His people, the Cruestaci, are a warrior race who bow to no one and nothing. They've been deemed too violent to be an ally by the Unified Consortium Defense — the organization responsible for keeping peace between all peoples and worlds. Zha Quin didn't care what their opinion was. He was only violent when necessary — like when provoked, or if his planet was threatened, or a weaker people overrun, or he was just irritated in general. Like now, slavers had crossed into the territory of Cruestace. He'd been called in to intercept and process the kidnapped women on board to the Consortium for return to their home worlds. Little did he know, his whole existence was about to be turned upside down. One little, human female was about to teach him a thing or two about survival, patience, and trust.

One large room — every wall, the entire floor, even the ceiling covered in mats. This is now Vivian's home. Her world extends no further than the end of the chain that keeps her anchored in the center of the room. She's learned how to use that chain as a weapon. She had to — her captors find great sport in taunting her, abusing her, hurting her. She's exhausted, nearly starved, injured and if truth be told — not long for this world, whatever the hell world it is. All she's got left is her pride, and she'll be damned if she gives that up to any of her alien captors. They want to play — she'll play — and she'll make sure they pay for it in bruises and pain the next day. They may win, but they'll think twice next time. Days run together, no hope of ever being freed. Survival seems pointless, until she finds herself face to face with the largest, scariest male she's ever seen. So be it — she's got nothing to lose — she'll fight him, too. Maybe this time her misery will finally come to an end. She has no idea this male is different. This male is stronger than the rest. This male will be her Haven.

Warning: Intended for mature audiences. This book contains violence, abuse both real and inferred, and sexual situations that may be disturbing for some readers. If you are offended by these subjects, please do not buy this book.

## Haven 1: Ascend Details

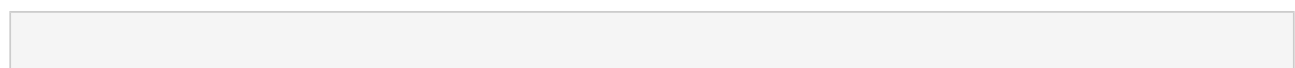
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## From Reader Review Haven 1: Ascend for online ebook

### Rosebud says

Earther Vivian is about to die and welcomes it. Starved, abused, hurt, exhausted, and chained like a dog to a post, it's just a matter of time before she can't go on but she'll be damned if she surrenders to the alien sex slavers without hurting as many of them as she can before that happens.

Zha Quin Tha, military commander and Sire to the Cruestaci, does what he wants when he wants for benefit of his people and crew though his father wants to join the Unified Consortium Defense which is the ONLY reason Zha agrees to intercept a slaver ship that has infringed into Cruestace air space.

Freeing the females, killing the slaver crew, Zha prepares to hand over the females until a disturbance requires his personal attention. Apparently one of the newly freed females refuses to be freed using her chains to keep the Crustaci at bay. Not wanting to hurt the female further, Zha is able to disarm Vivian though in the process decides not to surrender her to the Unified Consortium. An action that will jeopardize his planet's future with the Consortium.

\* \* \* \*

New to me author and series that has the same flavor as Vi Voxley's " Brion Brides" series so if you like the alpha dominant male sort of lead character - this one will scratch that itch in a big way.

The romance between the main characters is initially one sided - Zha's. This is totally reasonable as Vivian has been abused and assaulted (potential trigger warning for those sensitive to assault and non-consent) on a regular basis which she has, to a degree, compartmentalized in retrograde amnesia. She needed to work through this before Zha & Vivian could progress.

What I did appreciate and get all fan girl about was the inner strength of Vivian's character. She was a fighter, something I gladly applaud. Bad things happen to good people. It's how they deal and proceed that counts.

Secondary characters. Kitty. Not going to say one more word about Kitty except: DAMN !!!!!!!!!!

Other secondary characters all add to the world building and story development. Not going to delve into my favorites and dislikes as to reveal that WOULD be spoiler info. Just know the diversity and contrast of those characters elevate the overall story and have me putting an alert on this author for future releases.

New to me author who published an engaging new series of horny (reference to cover model and I'll stick to that reference hehehehe) warrior class aliens who are brought to their knees by Earth women.

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### Judy Lewis says

HORNS ARE THE NEW SEXY!!!

Title: Haven 1 (Ascend)

Series: Book 1 of new series??? (I don't know but I sure hope so!)

Author: Sandra R. McNeeley

Designation: Full-Length Novel, Can Be Read As Standalone, No Cliffhanger #sciencefiction #fantasy #romance #spaceopera  
My Rating: Four Sexy Stars\*\*\*\*

I'm somewhat confused about the actual title for this book, but I have to assume the title is either Ascend, Book 1 of the Haven Series, or Haven, Book 1 of the Ascend Series. Regardless of its actual designation, I just hope there's more! lol... I adore science fiction, love sexy aliens, completely addicted to action, adventure, suspense, and intrigue, and simply can't live without a daily infusion of romance, so when I can find it all in one great read, I'm in heaven! And that's exactly what Sandra Neeley delivered in Haven 1: Ascend. There's so much I truly enjoyed about this book. The concept was creative, the storyline and plot were extremely imaginative, the world building was extraordinary, exceptionally detailed and vivid, the technology and jargon were mind-blowingly and astonishingly inventive, but the element I loved most was the large cast of engaging and very endearing characters. Overall, I thought the book was well-crafted, but - yeah, yeah, there's always a but - the third-person omniscient narrative was, at times, a little problematic. Admittedly, a traditional third-person omniscient narrative with its all-knowing, all-seeing, 'god's-eye-view' narrator, who seems to know everyone's thoughts all the time, is my least favorite method of story-telling. It's an excellent device to build character development in stories/sagas with a large cast and can be an enjoyable experience, but when not executed skillfully and consistently, it can be confusing, distracting, disappointing, and quite disorienting for the reader. I much prefer third-person limited or multiple with the perspectives more discernible or clearly defined, preferably by scene or chapter, which was not the case in much of this story, hence the reason for four stars rather than five. Despite my omniscient induced reader whiplash, I felt compelled to turn every page. I was immediately smitten with the two protagonists, Warship Commander and future Sovereign of the planet Cruestace, Zha Quin Tha Mel Mo'Kok, and recently rescued human abductee, Vivian Bartholomew Stevenson. The Cruestaci were a warrior race and their Psi persona, a state into which they transform when angry or in battle, were feared throughout the galaxy, and Quin was the most alpha of them all. He was gruff, growly, grouchy, built like a tank, and had sexy horns! Oh my! Yet, all it took to give this fierce warrior an attitude adjustment was one small, fiery, rescued female prisoner from Earth, who outsmarted him and his men at every turn. Vivian was an absolute riot! I LOVED Vivi! She was beautiful, highly intelligent, snarky, sassy, spunky, brave, courageous, and such a little fighter. And she instantly melted Quin's cold, warrior's heart. Sigh... The interaction and dialogue between these two were beyond entertaining and their chemistry was so hot it sizzled. I had so much fun laughing at their antics as these two danced around each other, Quin constantly chasing Vivi, trying to woo and protect her, and Vivi always one step ahead of him and everyone else on the ship. But Quin turned out to be nothing but a big gooey marshmallow, at least when it came to Vivi, and Vivian was wickedly smart and had a heart of gold. So sweet! And Quin really had his work cut out for him because there were evil machinations on a galactic scale at play and heinous villains at every turn, determined to steal Vivi back.

So, did I like this book? Yes, I loved it! Will I read this author again? Absolutely! Would I recommend this book? You bet, and I am but only for adult readers since it does contain profanity, explicit sex, and violence. I became completely immersed in the first few pages and simply could not stop reading. There were some very dark elements included in the story but, in my humble opinion, were well balanced with a generous measure of laugh-out-loud humor. I giggled, snickered, snorted, sniffled, sobbed, fumed, and shook my fists in anger throughout the entire book. This is a full-length science fiction romance that I would definitely classify as a space opera, can be read as a standalone, and does NOT end with a cliffhanger. I so hope this is a new series and have my fingers crossed for a follow-up book soon in which we see more of Quin, Vivi, Missy (the ship's A.I.), and Kitty, Vivi's new alien pet! And finally, was I entertained? Completely! If you enjoy high-octane science fiction filled to the brim with action, adventure, danger, drama, intrigue, suspense, angst, passion, and steamy romance, then this book is screaming your name. Fabulous entertainment and an awesome read!

## **TP says**

What a repellent cover.

Every creature can be made interesting and mysterious looking. But that cover right here? Nope, it doesn't win you any readers. Quite the opposite.

Anyway, the book on the other hand was quite enjoyable. Surprise, surprise!! By the looks of the cover one wouldn't have thought.

It is an average book, professional-wise.

The author has talent and with some professional help, a good editor and definitely a way better designer for the cover those books could be great.

The story and the characters fascinated me and I did read it in one go.

But the devil is in the details.

There are so many unanswered questions, the author apparently didn't deem important. Yet, to deliver a great book you can't simply do that.

For example, our hero is already 130 years old. How old does he get? Our heroine on the other hand is human, how does that work?

Another example are the differences in the anatomy. One should have thought of that when it comes to sex.

I loved Kitty. Yet, how did he get on the ship, we never learn who hid her? As a commander of a ship, that would interest me a lot. As well as the little detail about the previous owner, apparently never to be heard of or seen again, not even kitty sought him out.

Those are only a few things which made the book only average.

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## **Summer says**

AI, alien pets and hot aliens... yep.

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## **Hayat says**

DNF. I just wasn't in the right mood for this book. I wanted a light fluffy sci-fi romance and this one was heavy on emotions and difficult topics like forced sexual slavery and abuse etc. I'm a mood reader, so I'll just have to give this book another go when I'm in the right mood for emotional sci fi romance.

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## **Space Cowgirl says**

Fear and Loathing in Space?

Zha Quinn??? and his warship full of warriors, come across a slaver ship in their territory of space?. They rescue a number of human women on board. Among the women is Vivian?, a young woman who was horribly treated and chained. She is nearly dead from infection and ill treatment.

Quinn? realizes Vivian is his fated mate, but Vivian? sees only a huge, ripped?, red warrior? with horns, who is likely to keep abusing her.

The book gets too wrapped up in Vivian's woes and doesn't have enough space adventure?? in it. It goes on and on about her fear and mistrust of Quinn? and his men. It got old. Vivian? was also continually deceitful towards Quinn?, which I didn't like.

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## **Jen Winters says**

### **It was alright**

First: do I recommend this book? Maybe. How forgiving are you? Ok, then. Go for it. Or don't.

Second: what are you forgiving? THE POV. Omg. It was SSOOOOOOOO hard to read because the POV jumps so much. Like, mid-paragraph POV shifting. It's like the author wanted to do 3rd person omniscient, but didn't know how and ended up with 3rd person limited from EVERYONE's perspective. And it was so freaking annoying. So annoying.

I read another review that complained about the characterization, but I didn't find that to be true. The characters weren't under-developed, though I don't think Vivian's actual character development true to life. She was her quirks that were reflective of her past abuse, but her general extrovert personality I don't think reflected her past, but I admit it's hard to write an extrovert who can't abide people. The Commander, Quin, didn't have the same problem and I think that he was as developed as he could be under the circumstances of the world the author created. Did I like him? Meh. I was so worried about the POV problem, I don't think he got a fair shake from me.

Will I read the next one? Nope. It's clear that the author doesn't have a firm grasp on POV and I just can't take another book like this. I'll keep an eye out on her samples, but unless she really puts in the effort to learn how to write seamless transitions in 3rd limited, like write one scene from her perspective and the next scene from his, and do not include the cat or the green guy or the random mom-in-law, I will be skipping her future publications as I am going to write off her previous ones. The only reason I am keeping an eye on her samples is because the story itself was fine and I like the idea of her warrior race more than the actual execution. All said, good luck.

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## **BJ says**

This is insta-mate, scifi fantasy with a great alien H, who rescues the human h from a terrible situation. She is brave, very sweet and I loved their connection. Some really sweet moments, showed how much she trusted him. Unfortunately we were 'told' endlessly about how he would wait for her to recover. The telling made the story very long winded, and tedious. Stronger editing would have made this a tighter and shorter story. I love the author's imagination, she's still a favourite.

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## **Carrie Wheeler says**

i was pleasantly surprised by this one! the heroine-vivian-is a badly abused young woman who isn't going to let any male abuse her with out getting a beating from her first, the only power she has is the chain she is attached to. but a male comes along and breaks her chain, gives her a robe, a dagger, and food she won't eat unless he tries it first. what she doesn't know is that he knows she is his 'ehleala', the holder of his heart and

soul. communication is a problem, but she really needs her life saved. when the computer finally figures out her language she tells it to hide that fact and uses it to figure out what is happening around her.

family reunion, falling in love, ascending! vivian is a survivor, an avenger, a warrior princess!

i can't wait for the next book!

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## **Pam says**

Is it checkmate when treachery stacks the deck against pawns in a galactic chess match?

Seriously? Again? Unbelievable! Seems the Cruestaci are fine as cannon fodder. But they're sure as hell not enough for anything else! Zha Quin Tha Tel Mo' Kok, Sire of Command Warship 1, is fed up. Leader of the Cruestaci military, why are he and his crew doing this again? But not even Quin knows how this mission will irrevocably change his life! Kidnapped from Earth, Vivian's been a slave with females of every species across the multi-verse. Filth and disease surround them. Despite vicious beatings, abuse of every kind, and unrelenting horror, Vivi's still a force to be reckoned with. Command Warship 1 makes quick work of the slaver ship. Dealing with the women aboard should be a piece of cake. So just how is it that one tiny human defeats Quin's bravest warriors? Quin himself storms in and, a moment later, his soul is lost. But this isn't possible! Dragged to Quin's ship, Vivi screams, fights, and wields the one weapon available to her, but she's no match for Quin. Determined to win the trust of the little human, Quin soon learns she's so much more than she appears. But none of this makes sense. As Quin and the other Cruestaci probe for answers, they realize this is a maze of labyrinthian proportions. And Vivi's at the center of that maze. The perpetrators also know all too well how to play Quin and the Cruestaci. When Vivi's lured into mortal danger, Quin's fury knows no bounds. She's beyond his reach. The creature who first stole his Vivi now holds her life in his hands again! Even Command Warship 1 is helpless! Quin's willing to pay any price for his Ehlealah. But Vivi may be gone forever! Can anything save her from the ultimate destruction awaiting her? Quin's vengeance may just destroy everything, including Vivi! Can there be some celestial intervention powerful enough to save not just Vivi but the entire multi-verse?

Sandra Neeley's taken another turn into the unknown and astounded me yet again! This new world is utterly breathtaking. It isn't just a simple sci-fi tale of aliens versus humans. The deepest, darkest emotions and actions that can inhabit any soul abound. Xenophobia, duplicity, hatred, cruelty, the basest acts and desires, all put in an appearance. But the counterpoint also lights this book like a beacon. The ultimate heights of light, peace, joy, pleasure, and reconciliation are also woven into one of the most remarkable books I've read. Quin is an enigma wrapped in a riddle. For so long, he's focused on one thing. He may be next in line for Cruestace's throne. Destroying the Consortium would be a treat. His own heart dried up and died long ago. Nothing holds meaning except Command Warship 1 and its crew. Then, out of nowhere, there's Vivian. But Vivi's no typical heroine. Abuse, terror, a nightmarish existence have all but destroyed her. Despite those horrors, her spine is iron. She's been tempered by the fires of hell and come out the other side a warrior. While these two dominate the story, it would be incomplete without Ba Re', Kol, Xallen, Bart, and the rest of the supporting characters. Vennie is one of the most conflicted, funny, and unique characters I've ever encountered. (And to find out about Vennie, you'll have to read the book!) Sandra Neeley has again created a singularly exceptional universe, and I adore it! Congratulations, Ms. Neeley! Saying I loved this book is a vast understatement!

A final note. This is an ADULT book. It contains explicit language, sexual scenes, and some dark themes. If you don't enjoy this genre, this may not be the book for you. There are book synopses and reviews available on Goodreads and all booksellers' websites. Please use these resources. I urge you to leave a review, but with

a proviso. Please don't leave a negative review when you know you won't enjoy the book. It's not fair to the author. She works hard to provide a quality work product. If you know you'll object to a book's subject matter before you buy it, you're doing yourself and the author an extreme disservice.

Thanks for reading my review and happy reading!

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## **Susie says**

Take it or leave it.

Well this was not what I expected, to be honest I had high hopes for this story as I've read this authors 'Whispers from the bayou' series which I like. Sadly I was left feeling dissapointed as the story dragged on a bit for me as it mainly centered on Vivian and what was done to her. Because of that reason Quin didnt really stand out, he wasnt a very memorable character and definitely not very alpha male. He was very sweet and supportive but he was just missing that manly man vibe, the all consuming desire and passion for his mate. It was nice that he was considerate of her needs after what she'd been through but damn sometimes nice is too nice you know what I mean. He was just missing that fire and intensity that is present when a male finds his mate. Patience is all well and good but after all the time he spent watching her naked, having her walk around in his clothes and sleeping in the same bed as him he should have been suffering from a major case of blue balls and would have had to take care of business. A morning RISE would have definitely been unavoidable given the circumstances. But all we get from him is a constant whiney chatter; complaining to his friends about him not being sure if she likes him or if she'll stay with him which made him look needy and oh so lame. Also all the alien male characters had really long unpronounceable names which annoyed me to no end. Just because their aliens doesn't mean they have to have sentence long names for example Zha Quin Tha Tel Mo' Kok was the name of our leading male. Imagine every single male character with a name that LONG it was frustrating to read. Thank god Vivian gave them all nicknames like her love interest was dubbed Quin and his friends Kol, Ba'Rae and Jhan. Though Vivian had the tendency to call Kol 'Blue Dude' which was so annoying I mean was she a surfer? I guess the reason she might have used it was because she was abducted at 17. Even she was given the nauseating name of Vivi by Quin, goodness it was such an immature term I couldn't help but roll my eyes everytime he called her that so I substituted it to Viv instead. He was also constantly calling her Ehlealah (soul mate in his language) which got old really fast. The fact that she was just 17 when this happened to her was just to young for my liking even if she was years in suspended animation in body and mind she was still just a teenager. The story is also told by many perspectives which gets confusing after a while as we have Vivian, Quin, Quin's mother, Kol, Vol, her guard, Malm and even her pet Kitty. It was just to many point of views and sometimes I would have to read back as I'd get confused on who was talking as narrators would suddenly change within the same scene. To me the male character that stole the show was Kol with his love of everything human and I'm glad that the next book in the series will be his, now fingers crossed I'll like it more than this one.

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## **Deanne Taylor says**

I have to say, and yes I am a book hoarder, don't judge me!

This story is one of my all time favorite scifi reads.....and that's saying a lot cause you know.....bookwhore! I can say Zha Quin Tha in my head but god help me if I ever have to say it out loud.....I'll stick with Quin, easier and better for all of us! He is intimidating, dominant and his word is ultimate law aboard his ship, Commander in name and attitude. He never expected his Ehlealah to be a damaged, tiny human with attitude to spare.

Vivian, man, she made me cry tears for her. Her strength and attitude had me on her side from the beginning. Couldn't have been that strong. Much less the way she handled a certain red skinned, awesome looking horned alien male!

This whole world is just, well.....perfect! And I hate to be one of "those" people but I have to say the dreaded words.....I need more, LOL.

But really, this is emotional, has some dark spots and some themes that made me tear up but you can't have light without some dark!

Even if you don't read scifi.....give it a chance!

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## **Deljah says**

It was a little rough to get through in the beginning but I stuck it out for a fairly satisfying read. There were some things that didn't make sense to me but I got past them or just shrugged and moved on. Several recurring grammar errors: insured vs ensured, unwaivering vs unwavering and others like that. I sometimes felt like the heroine veered close to Mary Sue territory. Hero was very irritating at first, bc everything he communicated was a bark, growl, bellow or snarl.

Overall, a decent book. I'll look for the next in the series.

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## **Victoria says**

Triggers. Great start to what looks like a long series. And I'll be there until the end.

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## **Diane Savage says**

### **Brilliant start to a new series**

Sandra is definitely my favourite paranormal author.

This is the first book in a new series. Vivian has been abducted from earth, tortured, raped and beaten. She is saved by a warrior Zha Quin. He has to gently persuade Vivian that she is his life mate and she slowly comes to realise that he will not hurt her. Her captor, Main tries to kidnap her again and when his plot fails they breach his shop to find more abducted women.

There are hopefully more books to follow, each with their own warrior. I want to read the next book about Kol and Ada, and I look forward to finding out more about each warrior.

This book does mention some disturbing issues but they are not over graphic and Sandra writes with sensitivity.

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