



Empire in Crisis

Dietmar Wehr

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The Empire is a political entity that encompasses hundreds of colonized worlds united by a common language (Esperanto) and under a single individual, the Emperor. But the Empire is getting old and creaky. Its government is riddled with corruption and is choking on red tape. The Space Force is bloated with the incompetent who have risen to high rank due to nepotism and patronage. The Emperor has been assassinated and the Empire is surrounded by alien races that are becoming more hostile and more powerful as time goes on.

When an exploration fleet in the rift between sections of the spiral arm are attacked by an unknown race, the dead Emperor's clone-son, now on the throne, recognizes that the Empire is standing at the edge of an abyss and must find a way to not only win this new war against the alien aggressors but also overcome the inertia of the arrogant Space Force officers who are more ready to overthrow their Emperor than fight the war. Fans of military SF action will find it in this book.

Excerpt:

“Ah, not so fast, Ren. We've just picked up five, I repeat, five unidentified ships heading this way at point eight cee. If they maintain this speed, they'll get here in about thirteen minutes. Here's the interesting thing. They're coming from the same direction as your longitudinal signal. I think it's highly likely that they came out of that same wormhole just a short while before you found it. Standby while we try to make contact with the rest of the squadron.”

Logan stepped closer to Montoya's Command Chair. When Montoya turned his head in Logan's direction, Logan leaned over and said, “If they came out of this wormhole, there may be more of them emerging at any moment. I recommend we pull back to extreme detection range.”

Montoya nodded. “See to it immediately, SubCommander.”

Logan went over to the Helm Station and told the Helm Officer what he wanted done. Detection of ships using warp drive was limited to a range of just under 11 light minutes or 200 million kilometers. At Bird of Prey's maximum speed of 4.4 times the speed of light, travelling that distance would take just 2.5 minutes. The trick was to stay in contact with the relay ship by longitudinal wave transmission. That wasn't a problem for Logan's ship since they knew exactly where to point their transmitter, but the relay ship had to be kept updated via data transmission as to what Bird of Prey was doing so that it could adjust its transmitter to compensate.

Logan checked the chronometer for elapsed time since the relay ship had begun detecting the bogeys. Almost four minutes had gone by. He wondered about the bogey's speed. If they were capable of faster speeds, why not do so? Could it be that their detection range was shorter than the squadron's light cruisers'? His thoughts were interrupted by the voice of Black Eagle's commander.

“Oh Christ! Ren, those five bogeys have just boosted to four point six cee! They'll be here within ninety seconds! We haven't been able to make contact with any other ship yet! I'm taking us to Battle Stations, Ren! Stand by!”

“XO, bring us to Battle Stations too.”

Montoya's voice had been calm. Logan wondered if his CO's stomach was churning just as much as his own was right now. Logan put his Command helmet back on and used the virtual controls to sound the Battle Stations alarm.

"We're at Battle Stations, Comma—" Logan's sentence was cut off by Magnasson's voice.

Empire in Crisis Details

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From Reader Review Empire in Crisis for online ebook

David Martin says

An enjoyable read

Book entertains consistently throughout. I like that the author plans this series to be stand alone but related. I do hate waiting for a series next book, this one I can enjoy as each is released.

Hans P Melius says

Political strife and space battles.

I enjoyed this book's combination of political struggles between the Emperor and the Space Force leadership. A chance of a political coup is threatening the very existence of the Empire, as it encounters a race that is slightly more advanced than themselves. Looking forward to reading the entire series.

John Leighton says

Well done

Compelling throughout. Kept my interest and plot moved along well. Four stars for very good, I save save 5 star for fantastic ones.

David P. Duffy says

Mediocre Space Opera That Is Lifeless As A Cadaver

"Empire in Crisis," is a mediocre space opera written so dryly, that it is lifeless and stiff. It is a "stiff," without any fluidity, passion or emotion. As the author has had a career in finance, it appears that writing a SciFi eBook as a bland spreadsheet, it his preferred modus operandi. Who else would refer to hours and minutes as "Four point four hours..."? This is just one example, as the eBook is filled throughout with many more.

Storyline: in the far future, humanity is across hundreds of star systems, governed by a clone descended Emperor, and protected by a vast, bureaucratic Space Navy Command. The Emperor is threatened by an impending military coup by elements of the higher command, and by both known aliens along the empire's borders and a new threat from "The Rift." Struggles ensue as the Emperor confronts the treasonous Fleet elements, restructures the command, and tries to stave off the alien incursions from "The Rift."

The author uses most of all available SciFi technologies-FTL communication, warp drive, wormholes, star gates, plasma missiles, lasers, etc. He only addresses the Emperor, the Fleet, and the aliens. There is NOTHING about the people, the government, the planets, industry, anything that might breath life into the

corpse. He does show his "The History Channel: Ancient Aliens" mindset, as he is enamored by playing with numbers, creating hypothetical constructs that the Moon is artificially created, the Earth, Sun (Sol) and Moon share a potentially alien directed astrosynchronism (my word, sorry!), that defies credulity. All that is missing is weird hairdos and even stranger tanning products.

The space combat is non-mortal, as while there are critically wounded, no one seems to die. (The only KIA's are from the coup plot line.) Vessels maneuver, run around at warp speed, shoot warp missiles, and run to wormholes. Think of it as "Space Warfare For Dummies."

The proofreading and editing are adequate. If there was a really good editor, the storyline could be made quite better, as there is merit. The author makes complications more complex, no a good way to tell a story. The writing is adequate, but mainly in the form of a technical manual.

Overall, the eBook did entertain at a minimal level, but it was not fun. The eBook was fully read via Kindle Unlimited and is narrowly recommended.

richard a rishell says

Good

Enjoyed this book and I have to say that the detail of space battles was extraordinary in their complexes. If you love that level of detail you will be in seventh heaven.

Harry L Skinner says

Great tale.

This is an excellent story. I liked the emphasis on the strategic aspects of the tale. I look forward to reading more from this author.

Stuart Nelmes says

Very good

I chose to buy and read this book based on the fact that it was written by Dietmar Wehr and I have really enjoyed other books written by Dietmar wehr and yet again there has been no disappoint absolutely brilliant can't wait for more from you sir !

Jakk Makk says

Memetastic blue space devils, oh my! Audiobook was a painful grimace for ten minutes before abandonment. Practically atonal.

Bill Sullivan says

Dietmar Wehr has written another very enjoyable space opera in Empire in Crisis. This story starts with the ascension of most of an alien race which allows a more primitive race to capture suddenly crewless starships. They then meet the human empire which is on the verge of another alien race invasion and a possible civil war. A new conflict starts between humanity and the aggressive aliens. The story continues to become more intense as humanity tries to survive this attack and defend itself. This new series is off to a great start. Please keep them coming.

Shane says

I started reading Wehr with the Synchronicity War series. This series looks like it might have some potential. Wehr always creates some interesting universes and this is the case with Empire. The character development in this series leaves a little to be desired. I get the feeling that if the universe was a painting, the characters here are just sort of penciled in. There is a great deal of 'back story' that seems missing. Maybe Wehr will use the following books to fill it in.
