



Killbox

Ann Aguirre

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Talk is cheap when lives are in jeopardy

Sirantha Jax is a “Jumper,” a woman who possesses the unique genetic makeup needed to navigate faster than light ships through grimspace. With no tolerance for political diplomacy, she quits her ambassador post so she can get back to saving the universe the way she does best—by mouthing off and kicking butt.

And her tactics are needed more than ever. Flesh-eating aliens are attacking stations on the outskirts of space, and for many people, the Conglomerate’s forces are arriving too late to serve and protect them.

Now, Jax must take matters into her own hands by recruiting a militia to defend the frontiers—out of the worst criminals, mercenaries, and raiders that ever traveled through grimspace...

Killbox Details

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From Reader Review Killbox for online ebook

Regina says

4.75 stars. This is one of my favorite in the series, although warning -- it ends with a cliffhanger. I enjoyed this installment of the Sirantha Jax series. Jax's friendship deepens with everyone around her, including Vel and Dina. Jax continues to grow as a character and as a result, makes decisions that place her at bodily risk. Jax still bears the tatoo Vel gave her on his planet but the meanings of the markings is vague -- although March wishes the tatoo was not there. Old friends are back in this book -- including one that Jax thought was long dead. There is some discussion of the "ancients" and the beginning of space travel and discovery of grimspace. I would love to read more about this, hopefully in Aftermath Aguirre gives us more. There are many hearbreaking scenes in this book, some true losses for the characters.

*****spoiler warning*****

The war has begun and both Jax and March are right in the middle of it. March has become the focus of the war, so Jax loses some of the limelight which she is happy to give up, but her and March must also give up their relationship to focus on the battle. I understood March's decision, but it was frustrating -- and Jax's insecurity as to the why of it was silly, I thought. I missed not having Vel in much of this book, he was around so much in book #3. Is it just me or is Aguirre setting up a love triangle? Anyone else get that from this book? I have to admit that I find that idea somewhat intriguing if I am not misreading it.

I understood what Jax was doing in the end, but I really thought she should have talked about this with March. I was surprised Hit would run off as carelessly as she did with Jax. I think March would have seen it as a good plan but that he would understand that Jax needs him as her pilot to accomplish it. Instead, Jax and March keeping forcing themselves apart to get things done when they should be working together. I also keep wanting to see Jael again, I do not like what happened to him in Doublind and would really like the crew to go rescue him. Anyway, I can't wait until September 2011.....

Katyana says

God. God. I just finished, and... I don't even know where to begin. How do I rate this book?

This book left me smoking pissed. Part of me wants to give it a bad rating because of that, just out of spite. But when I think about it, this visceral emotional reaction I am having, it is a reaction to the story. To a well-told story. How can I give that a low rating?

There are a lot of decisions that frustrated me in this book. I honestly found it hard to read, because parts of it were pretty upsetting. But isn't that a mark of caring about a character? Being agonized because they are going down a road you don't want to see them travel?

I am angry that March decided to hold himself apart from Jax, that his integrity demanded it (I am deliberately being vague here, to avoid spoiling my friends). And I am angry that Jax agreed to it. But... I can't argue that it is out of character. That decision, that is March, right down to his core. And Jax... the beautiful thing is that the Jax of book 1 WOULDN'T have agreed. But the Jax of book 4, she recognizes that there are things in the world that hold more value than her own personal needs.

Now, I can and will argue that they were both being stupid. That being partners means facing things together,

and if the Armada can't handle that, the Armada can suck it.

But I can't argue that it was out of character, or that it in any way undermined these people or this story.

I am angry that Jax was utterly isolated by the end of this book. That one by one, the people she loves were forced away from her. But at the same time, I can see that this is essential, for Jax. That this is part of her growth.

I am livid that both Jax and March CONTINUE to make unilateral decisions - leap forward into their own plan of action without discussing possibilities with each other. I am heartbroken that they have not come, yet, to the stage where they trust each other enough to know that their love for each other won't allow them force the other to be someone who is less... less... just Less than they need to be.

I am terrified of March's devastation when he receives that transmission.

And above all... above all I am HORRIFIED that we have to sit with this cliffhanger for a YEAR.

But are any of those things marks of a poorly written book? Honestly, could the story have made me cry my damn eyes out through the last 50 or so pages if it was not excellent? The book took me on an emotional journey. And sure, it left me Utterly Furious... but I'd guess that's exactly what Aguirre wants me to be feeling right now.

So, 5 stars.

Cheers, y'all. See you in a year. Goddammit.

Felicia says

This is the only series that reddeems the "sci-fi" romance genre, probably because it's NOT a sci-fi romance novel, it's a sci-fi series with a strong romance arc, and so readable by boys and girls.

I inhaled this latest in the series because it was SO GOOD! Wow, what character arcs for the two lead characters, I feel like they really have matured together and become different people from book one. They have GROWN, it's so believable and so gratifying to see a relationship and where it goes AFTER the initial lust part, where all the romancy onces end. AND the story and other supporting characters are great. This is kinda Mass Effect in legit book form, I really love this series and recommend it greatly. The ending...ugh, so long to wait until the next one :(

Sarah says

Diplomacy has never been Jax's biggest strength so she's relieved to have resigned from her role as Ambassador and trying to figure out what to do with her life next. Then March gets an offer from the Conglomerate that he can't refuse, they want him to recruit a military fleet for them and marshal their forces against the human-eating Morgut who are currently plaguing the most vulnerable human outposts in the far reaches of space. Jax jumps at the chance of being in the action again and is more than willing to start training the next generation of jumpers on navigating Grimspace. It's time for humanity to come out fighting and show the Morgut that we're not a race to be messed with.

After the slower pace of **Doubleblind** I was thrilled to be back in the thick of the action for **Killbox**. The universe has been in disarray since Jax helped bring down Farwan, as much as the corporation committed terrible atrocities they did have the manpower and ships required to keep the peace and protect the humans spread across the galaxy. Now pirates and privateers are making life difficult for honest traders and it's up to March and Jax to try and convince the mercenaries to join with them and fight for the conglomerate rather than against them. There is definitely a lot going on in this book and I flew through the pages desperately trying to figure out what would happen next.

I have to admit I was slightly disappointed by a few things though. Firstly I wasn't happy with the new barriers put in the way of Jax and March's relationship, I love them best when they're working together for a common goal and it's getting a little tired that in pretty much every book something comes between them and forces them apart. I was also upset that the core crew ended up spending much of their time apart from each other and I particularly missed Vel's character. I understand why he was needed elsewhere but I love him so much and I didn't like how isolated Jax became as her friends all went off in their own directions. I was extremely upset at Doc's actions too, I think his story could have been handled in a hundred other ways that wouldn't have annoyed me as much as what actually happened and it's going to take a lot to make me interested in forgiving him.

I don't want to sound too negative though because this was still a brilliant book and there was so much to love about it. Jax is her awesome self, I still love March in spite of his stupid choices, Dina and Hit are brilliant together, Constance is really coming into her own and I adore Vel. Throw in some familiar faces from the past and we really do have a brilliant central cast of characters. We get loads of action, plenty of danger and Jax sticking her neck out for the people she loves. I'm a little worried about what she did at the very end of the story and the book ends on a killer cliffhanger but that's okay because the entire series has been published so I'm not going to have to wait around for the next instalment. This is such a fun series and I can't wait to continue reading it!

Angela says

4.5 Stars. My favorite one yet. I'll get to the loss of a 1/2 star at the end.

The writing was superb, with little repetition that plagued the previous books in this series, nearly poetic in many places.

Jax has become the heroine that I've been yearning for. She's strong and independent, and still beautifully connected to those she loves and cares about.

In the end this series is all about the relationships for me, all the connections between the characters, and the depth of emotions that it pulls out for me. March and Jax have one of the most heart-wrenching, deep relationships I've ever read about. Again, like in all of the books, there are things that come between the purity of their love and relationship - something that's slightly annoying, and even though I don't love all of their decisions in this book, I do understand them. Mostly.

Vel is that character that worked his way into my heart before I realized what was happening. I did not like him at all when we first met him. His absolute, unfailing loyalty and care makes him irresistible. I love how he's always there for Jax. And I have no doubt he always will be.

The action is nearly non-stop in this book. I had such a hard time putting it down, and I felt the loss of every person as keenly as anyone in the book.

Finally, the first factor in my lowering it a 1/2 star. One writing quirk that Aguirre chose is 1st person POV. This means that we can't know what's going on without a lot of exposition, Jax being everywhere, or her spying and eavesdropping on everyone - which is happening more and more lately. Her entitlement in this regard irritates the hell out of me, because it's not what I've come to expect from her either.

The fact is, I'm dead nosy, and now I have the power to indulge myself.

Really? You're nosy, so that gives you the right to intrude in other people's personal business, pain and heartache? Ugh. Again, I don't feel this is Jax, but something that had to be done because of the 1st person POV narrative.

And the other thing I hate - the incredibly cliff-hanger that this ends on. I'm not entirely in love with the decision that Jax makes, on her own without even bothering to consult anyone else, which we've seen get her in trouble time and time again previously, but that's not what really bothers me. It felt cheap to end it on the note it did. I was left with my jaw hanging and eyes wide. I would have been furious if I had to wait a year for the next book.

Definitely my favorite book though. With just two books left to go, I can't help but be invested in these characters, wanting to see them happy, complete and safe.

Some favorite quotes:

"I always know exactly where you are in a room," he tells me without looking round. "I know how many times you run your fingers through your hair. I know when you look at me as well as the precise instant you look at anyone else. So I certainly know when one of my crew propositions you six meters away."

"We cease to value what we have until it's gone, and only then do we realize the gold we glimpsed in distant hills paled as dross compared to treasure we had in hand."

White wave will never forsake brown bird.

My eyes are damp when I part from Vel. The hug wasn't enough, but I have no words for what he is to me. I permit a final wa to speak my heart, and I don't even know what it said. His reply offers infinite solace in a single word. Always.

"Say you love me?"

His long fingers trail down my cheeks, shaping the sharp line, along the curve of my chin, and up to the swell of my lips. The warmth lingers like a phantom kiss. Tears slip from the corners of my eyes.

"More than the blood in my veins. More than the heart in my body."

I laugh softly, unsteadily. "A simple 'yes' would have sufficed."

"Nothing is simple between us. It never has been."

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

[Confession time: to be honest this instalment probably deserved a 4-star rating. No wait, that's too drastic. Let's say a 4.5 star rating.]

Cheryl La Pa says

Magnificent! Adrenaline-pumping & heart-breaking! And what an ending! I'm still reeling from it!

This is the fourth book in the series and it is definitely one of the best so far.

Jax and March are enlisted to gather a force to defend the planets from the Morguts – a flesh eating race of aliens. March is now the Commander with Jax as his subordinate: this creates difficulties for Jax as March is now both her lover and her boss.

The other members of the close-knit crew are separated from March & Jax and sent to other ships or missions, so Jax is feeling very isolated and alone. March is keeping his distance so as not to compromise his position, and this situation brings home to Jax how much she has truly come to rely on her crew for friendship and support.

We are bound by chains of love, but they don't weigh us down. Instead, they allow us to be bigger and better than we are.

Jax is especially upset when her best friend, Vel, is transferred on another mission.

Vel has been there for me... He's never wavered. Never faltered. Never doubted me. I've never had a friend like that – or known a devotion so deep it goes beyond species or sex. I don't even know what he is to me, really, but he's been my rock.

March and Jax's relationship is as strong as ever, and they have grown so much in their relationship. Their love warms my heart.

I can bear anything as long as I know that you are with me.

I am with you. You are my captain, my commander, and my love. Neither war nor death will change it.

Jax has matured so much over the series and grown from a self-centred, party girl to a caring, compassionate person with everything to live for.

There are so many people whose lives have touched me, who moved me with their strength or kindness or wisdom. They've enriched me and made me better than I ever thought I could be.

I think what really draws me to this series is the characters and their strong inter-relationships. I feel as though I have been on this journey with Jax and have been with her through all the tough times as well as the great.

If you haven't read this series yet, I highly recommend it, even if you are not a fan of science fiction. This is an excellent action-packed series with real, memorable characters that I have grown to love.

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

.CLASSIFIED-TRANSMISSION.

.ACCEPTANCE.

.FROM-SH3LLY.

*.TO-ANYONE READING THIS.
.ENCRYPT-DESTRUCT-ENABLED.*

This is book 4 in the Sirantha Jax series. In this one, the Conglomerate has formed an Armada with our hero March as its Commander. The Armada is a militia made up of ex-raiders and criminals who have pledged to turn a new leaf with a promise of clemency and profit in getting to claim what they find on Syndicate ships who attack small unarmed colonies. Also, the war with the spider-monster Morguts escalates.

I think this was my least-favorite book so far in the series. It was still very good, which is why I am still giving it 4 stars. The relationship angst between Jax and March is really starting to get on my nerves, though, and that is why I am not giving this 5 stars.

(view spoiler)

Not enough Vel in this book.

DOC - (view spoiler)

I liked the new information that came out about the Morgut. Jax's mom - (view spoiler) Also, it ended on a cliffhanger basically, and those typically annoy me.

All in all, this was still really good, but I had a couple issues, and it's not my favorite in the series. This series definitely still rocks and is one of my all-time favorites.

END TRANSMISSION

We started out with a little casual Buddy Read of Grimspace. And this is what it's turned into for a few of us.

I just LOVE it SO MUCH.

oOSarahOo and Jaime... We're in this together (although Jaime already done read the whole series except for book 6). Robin has read book 2, but I'm still looking at everyone who hasn't even gotten past book 1.

Brandi says

Man oh man, did this book ever annoy the crap out of me.

While I still enjoy the series, this book has my fangirl status on hiatus. Much the same way that March places his love life at every possible turn.

So this story revolves around the growing Morgut threat, and how Jax, March, and everyone else (plus some

random new guy who I can't figure out but seems to be all powerful) set out to fight them. The alliance with Ithiss-Tor is a go, and the Conglomerate is trying to make a comeback after being dormant and useless for so long. The focus in this whole book is military and war efforts, and instead of it being believable, it became a source of intense annoyance for me.

One of the things I am *so very* sick of is the way March and Jax are broken apart in *every* book!!! The issues are just total bullshit in my opinion. This time it's that they are going to war and March is a higher rank than her. He doesn't want to have the other people thinking she's getting special treatment because they are lovers (married more like from the way they talk). This is bogus because they are **building** the fucking armada themselves!!!! So it's not as if they built it, it was functioning properly for years, and then BAM! The head honcho screws an underling. It was a *known* relationship to **everybody** before there was any real war effort. Ugh, just pissed me off so very, very much. I could not see Barrons or Curran ever doing that to their women.

Another thing that I really took issue with was March giving Jax the title of Lieutenant Commander, and then referring to her as *LC*. *Are you fucking kidding me?!* That is so disrespectful, and then to have the entire crew refer to her as such grated on my last nerve every time I was forced to read it. Every. Time.

Further into my unhappiness with this book is how March tells Jax they can't be together and blah blah blah, but when they doc on Venice Minor he gets it on with her ASAP! Then rationalizes it that they're on *leave* so it's ok. Because that makes total fucking sense. Except it doesn't. I don't even want to keep explaining why that issue pissed me off so bad because I'm still too pissed off about it. March was on shaky ground with me on the last book (well and the end of book two in fairness), but this one got his ass kicked off my favorite male list in a hurry. Why isn't Jax with Vel at this point anyway?! How many times does she have to allude to him being more than a friend and what not before we are taken on *that* ride?!

I read a great review that pointed out how Acuirre has limited herself to the first person in a bad way. She actually has Jax spying on her crew mates just so that we get to hear little tidbits and whatever they're discussing. Doc and Rose in particular annoyed me because Rose was so hateful towards Jax (and without good reason for the record) and then suddenly all this time seems to pass on ship and she's left with only Jax as a friend. So of course Jax has to spy on her to learn the outcome of what was confided to her. Of course.

And just for the record, all the times that Jax has said how she is bad luck, or has brought such hardships to people/places, or that she should be treated like shit (like during the underground scenes on Lanchion) I don't get any of that. It's annoying! She didn't know about the issues on Lanchion when she landed and was attacked right then, so how could they sit there and blame HER and then she AGREES?! Those things annoy the crap out of me.

There are still things that I like, as in Dina, and there are still humorous moments from time to time. Then there's the fact that we do get to see Jax evolve as a person....so that's all good...but overall this book was not only the weakest, but had I not had hope the last books would be better I might just drop it. It took forever to read too when the other three were eaten up so fast.

I've got nothing else, lol.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Killbox would have been a beautiful 5-star book, but the cliffhanger-ish ending ruined it a bit for me. Still, I

can honestly say that Ann Aguirre hasn't failed me yet. I postponed reading this book for as long as I could, trying to get closer to the release date of *Aftermath*. Today I needed an author I could trust and a world I felt comfortable in.

This is one of my favorite series in the world. What I love most about it is the growth of the characters: not just Jax and March, but Dina and Hit as well. The only character who hasn't changed one single bit is Vel. He is consistently reliable, nice, smart as hell and overall amazing. I would very much like to read a series entirely about him.

Katie Michaels says

When I reach the end of this series, I anticipate a period of mourning coming on. I don't see how it can be avoided, because I am in deep. These characters have me in their grip. I feel like I know them. I laugh with them. I cry with them. I worry and anguish and exalt in time with their tragedies and triumphs. And then I say very bad words when I am left with their fates hanging in the balance.

This story begins with Jax and her crew headed home from their successful mission at Ithiss-Tor. But the world isn't quite how she left it. The Morgut are stepping up their attacks and the Conglomerate needs help once again. This time, March is the man of the hour, devising an Armada to defend against them. It will mean more sacrifice, as he and Jax must again put duty ahead of their emotions. Not only that, but Jax puts her health on the line, trying to bend the rules of Grimspace to help the cause.

I know I sound like a broken record on my reviews of these books, but really, Ann Aguirre does such a phenomenal job. Her worldbuilding is amazing. It's vast and unique, yet easy to fall into. The pacing is fast. There is a ton of action. But most importantly, despite a backdrop of places and events which are utterly foreign, she gives us this cast of characters that can just reach inside you and squeeze.

There were times I felt like this book was dragging my heart over broken glass. Jax has grown so much over the course of the series. Her connections to her makeshift family run so deep. Each has made an indelible mark on her life. And one by one, walls come up between them. I felt like there were so many goodbyes, each one felt like a punch to the gut.

The love between Jax and March just slays me. But honestly, the connection between Jax and Vel affects me just as strongly. Every single step they each must take away from each other leaves me terrified that something will make their separation permanent. Even Dina and Hit, Doc and Rose, blindsided me with the impact of their personal trials. There is so much happening, but it's never busy background noise. It all matters.

One of the things I love so much about these books is how Aguirre leaves me with so many questions without ever making me feel like she is withholding. It's not like she is being coy. She is just revealing the story in the way that feels like it's naturally unfolding. I don't want to put these books down to the point I sometimes resent real life, like food and sleep for getting in the way of my reading.

These books need to be read in order, so if you are new to the series, start with *Grimspace*. And have the rest of the series waiting. You won't want to stop.

Rating: A

MISS VAIN says

"I am Ramona Jax," she tells the universe.

"And I do this because this is *my* world."

Ann Aguirre has fraggin done it again!!!! I'm amazed at this romantic Sci-Fi fantasy world she has created. **Killbox** is a book about **War, Love, Loss, Sacrifice**, and being **Heroic** at the risk of losing everything.

Chancellor Tarn has put March in a position to build Starships offering protection to tier worlds as the Morgut threaten to take over. War has begun. Jax, March, Vel, Dina, Doc, Hit, are now aiding Tarn in the battle against the horrifying **Morgut**; flesh eaters that are out to destroy and basically consume everything and everyone in their path.

Without the help of March the new **Commander** of the Conglomerate ship Armada and Jax as the **Lieutenant Commander** the war is a dying battle. March uses his contacts and hires his mercenary friends, smugglers as well as our favorite gorgeous gold toothed pirate Hon to prepare an army large and skilled enough to defeat the Morgut.

"I always know exactly where you are in a room. I know how many times you run your fingers through your hair.

I know when you look at me as well as the precise instant you look at anyone else. So I *certainly* know when one of my crew propositions you six meters away."

March and Jax are inseparable, and they prove time again how strong their bond is with each other. Their love and everlasting devotion is the most purest example of a fictional pair of soulmates that I've had the pleasure to read about. Luckily these two are strong leading characters or else they would have succumbed to their difficult ~~heartwrenching~~ heartwrenching circumstances long ago. It seems like those two fail to have the odds in their favor.

As true to the honorable character March is, he has to put the army needs above him and Jax's. Though I understand that he *must* keep their relationship professional and not emotional or physical during his wartime duties, is it okay that I hate it? Because I do! Fortunately for Jax she has had time to mature and grow from selfish Jax to selfless Jax and honors her lover March's wishes and puts their relationship on hold for the sake of war. Needless to say they both suffer immensely. What can I say, I'm a fan of selfish Jax, and selfless Jax...I love her character either way.

"Men can be very stupid," he says bitterly. "We cease to value what we have until it's gone, and only then do we realize the gold we glimpsed in distant hills paled as dross compared to treasure we had in hand."

I'm angry with Doc, there I said it! He is a brilliant doctor and I'm not even sure Jax would be alive if it were not for his flair for all things scientific. However as gifted as he is scientifically he falls short in other important life skills, and though he has learned his lesson, the sacrifice made for that education was devastating.

"But I would wear your colors, if you asked," he says. "I don't know what that means." I say. "If we both survive," he says softly in Ithorian, "we will speak of this again."

Is this what I think it means?? (view spoiler) I love Vel sooooo much (view spoiler) Jax's very good friend forever.

This book shamelessly brought me to tears. I've now found a new appreciation for all the characters involved watching them grow strong bonds with each other and their sacrifices they make for one another including a new respect and endearment for the beautiful *Villainous* Ramona Jax.

"Even monsters love their own."

Oh Jax why must you break my heart at the end to go save the world??!! Especially with the lovely and deliciously sexy March at your side. Oh I can't wait to see how you get yourself out of this one.

But first I have to warn her. " don't know what'll happen when I leave my body. I may not be able to guide you back." she has no fear. "I'm willing to make the ultimate sacrifice, if that's how it has to be."

JAIME says

No updates + no review (yet) = No spoilers. Cos, I'm a nice guy.

That ending though...

Cathy says

The good stuff:

The plot of this book is back on track after the diplomatic detour of the last book. There's action galore; Jax is back in her element aboard ships and in the thick of galactic drama. Also, the Morguts are terrific bad guys. They're not only very scary by design, but also because of Aguirre's skilled writing in confrontation scenes. She makes them into a truly frightening foe, which heightens the drama considerably.

The supporting characters are very well done. Aguirre is fantastic at writing emotion. The love between Jax and March, Jax and Vel, Jax and Dina and Jax and Saul all feel very genuine and poignant. I love Vel, Aguirre has done a superb job of developing his character and his people's culture. His relationship with Jax is layered and interesting, as well and lovely and sweet. I also really like Jax and Dina's banter, and her complex relationship with Saul. There are a few new characters that are quite interesting, including a trainee for Jax.

Jax and March are actually the least interesting characters in the book. But their romance is very powerful. Having the lead be psychic is such a great romantic tool. It's hard to resist the idea of actually feeling, mind to mind, how loved you are. Plus it makes the sex hot.

I like the idea that love doesn't have to be exclusive. It's mostly hinted at in this book, but it seems like it will be a theme in the next. Jax and Vel have a profound connection that may be more than friendship. She and Dina have a bond. We'll see!

The bad stuff:

Here's my biggest problem with the book in a nutshell. "...history teaches us that any government, however egalitarian it purports to be, can swiftly become more brutal and corrupt than the one it supplants." True, but totally bizarre in first person internal thoughts from Jax, the uneducated, former party girl. And this is just one example, I could go on and on. Some of the language she uses is so lovely and poetic, with vocabulary that is expressive and nuanced. But it's wrong for the character as established in the first two books. Yes, she studied a bit to become an ambassador in the last book. But she wouldn't think that way, in those words. She's too wise, too thoughtful, and uses way too many big words. I think that making the series a first person narrative was a bad decision that Aguirre is now just stuck with. It's too limiting. At one point Jax is reduced to spying on her friends for Aguirre to be able to tell part of the story. It took me out of the story in annoyance way to frequently to just brush aside. It's one thing to grow up, it's another to completely lose your temper and temperament, and gain a vocabulary, poetic nature, and deep historical knowledge.

I really hate that Jax never asked Vel what the tattoo on her throat and neck mean. She says she figures he'll tell her if he wants her to know. It's on her body forever and she doesn't want to know? Absurd, no one is that patient, certainly not Jax. Aguirre used this technique in the last book a lot too, Jax acknowledging that she was ignoring something really important so that Aguirre could deal with it later. It's really irritating.

I also really hate that each book has to come up with a reason to keep Jax and March apart. The author made the choice in the first book to bring the characters together, there was no long, drawn out courtship. They have an intense, mind to mind connection that appears to be permanent. And now the author is stuck with that too, so to build suspense and allow her story to develop she has to make the characters stupid about something in each book to keep them apart. Except they adore each other and always will. And so we're forced to watch them longing for each like teenagers forced to stop dating by parents who just don't understand.

I also have a hard time believing some of the coincidences. Saul is a genius, Dina is a genius, both are doing incredible research that no one in the entire galaxy has done before, just in time to save the day on several occasions. Both just happened by coincidence to end up in March's crew years ago. And no one else in the entire galaxy has even begun to approach their level of expertise (except one new character who's as smart as Doc). When the ship goes out without Dina and gets damaged, they can barely manage to get along. Because even though it's the Commander's ship, no other mechanic in the entire fleet even begins to approach her level of skill. And Doc not only can do miraculous stuff for Jax, but he may even be able, in his spare time, to fix a wrong done to an entire planet full of people. Yeah, right. It's too much. They're all too much, the rest of the galaxy is all too little. And where are all of the former Farwan employees, do none of them want jobs? The fleet is scrambling for help from mercenaries and pirates. Where did all of the old ships and people go?

Finally, can anyone remind me of who Edun Leviter is? He's the guy working with Tarn in the sections between the chapters about Jax. It's making me nuts, I can't tell if I'm supposed to remember him or if he's new.

Summary:

All of my bad comments make it look like they outweigh the good, but it really was a good book. Aguirre is a much better author than most. There is just too much lazy storytelling, too many irritations. I had intended to give the book four stars, but writing the review forced me to reduce it to three. I know I'm going against the tide here. It's powerful in a lot of ways, and I enjoyed it very much. But it's just not quite four stars for

me.

Catherine says

Best one yet!!!
