



At the Edge

Alan Black

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Ensign Stone's goals were to make his way in the empire's navy, make his family proud of him, and make love to his fiancée. No matter which way he turned, someone was conspiring against him. Disgraced and humiliated, he is court-martialed, discharged, and abandoned.

Accepting what he thinks is a lowly busy-work position on a beat up old family business space freighter travelling At the Edge of human space, he hopes to earn back the trust and respect he lost. The Empire's political powers and his family have different goals. Stone faces humanity's enemies in a do-or-die operation.

At the Edge Details

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From Reader Review At the Edge for online ebook

Tony Hinde says

I was a little disappointed when no one took a less murderous approach to the Hydrocanians after learning the true cause of their behavior. It took five minutes to find a solution for affected humans, but nothing was done for the "enemy."

Also, Stone's cousin constantly acted like a spoiled child, even getting one of her party killed at one point, but he didn't even mention it to her, much less confront the issue.

I'm worried that the lack of moral direction detracts from the heroism that the author is going for.

Dianne says

Stone has gone from a bumbling young man who seemed to always end up on his feet, no matter what to a much more mature and "kind of" worldly man who has seen more, accomplished more and experienced more than men three times his age. Through it all, he has kept his honor, looked on the bright side and given his all in everything he does, including being "Momma" to two large and powerful drascos. When life threw him lemons, he made lemonade. When he fell in love, he fell hard and fast. Imagine his heartbreaking shame at being court-martialed in a universally public forum, decrying him as a man who scoffed at the rules and did what suited him. But did he fight the humiliation? No, he took his punishment with public dignity, because someone was out to get him, something was going on that was more powerful than he. But who and why?

With his tail between his legs, Stone takes command of a family freighter, determined to do the job that is expected of him. What he discovers is not the rusty metal box he expected, but a vessel filled with old comrades, military warriors and a state of the art machine on a deadly secret mission that could be entrusted only to him. It's do or die time and with his friends and drascos by his side, Stone will face the deadliest foes ever to darken the skies of outerspace as he attempts to stop their evil spread of death and destruction.

Alan Black has raised young Blackmon Stone before our very eyes and this time out in **Metal Boxes – At the Edge** we will further witness the fine man he has become! Still filled with humorous moments, thoughtful moments and moments of intense action and tension, Mr. Black is at the helm of another fabulous science fiction tale filled with the magnetic charm of his characters and the settings he places them in! Brilliant dialogue, clever characters of every ilk, watch the love between species at work, the hatred of warring factions and the undeniable honor that fills the soul of Stone! Speaking of Stone, has he changed even more than we realize? Leave it to Alan Black to create a tale that begs to be read, remembered and enjoyed until that very last word! If you haven't read the Metal Boxes series, you have no idea what real science fiction adventure can be!

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Sittingduck says

DNF

Tony Hisgett says

I know the author wanted to set up a particular story in this book, but the way he did this wasn't very good. In fact I found the start of this book so stupid as to be beyond belief. Had I not already invested so much of my time in reading the other three books in this series I would have just given up.

My solution was to just ignore the first dozen or so chapters and hope the story would improve when Stone reached the Platinum Pebble. Unfortunately we then got Beffie-pie and her entourage, you would have to be 'brain dead' to take this lot with you on any sort of mission.

I'm afraid the rest of the story wasn't much better, to be honest it was a bit boring until about three quarters of the way through the book. However, from then on there was a lot more action and I finally began to enjoy the story.

Derek says

It is official

This guy writes a good story. It is fun to read and experience these books. Alan Black is one of the best story tellers I have read. I almost like him almost as much as my favorite author...John Dalmás

Mark Zodda says

Enjoyable, but probably the weakest of the four books in the series. If a fifth book is published I plan to read it.

Nicholas Kropp II says

Slow start but finished well

The first few chapters are a bit slow, but once the real story gets moving its the usual action packed series of progressively catastrophic events. The events of this book take a big step toward deepening the universe of the upcoming stories and address the issues of the military command structure that has been over played over the course of the prior books. Overall a solid addition to the series and an enjoyable light read for sci fi fans.

Shane Benson says

Another great edition to the series.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the series. I look forward to the next book. I think the latest revelation on who might be the true enemy was a fresh take.

Marshall Clowers says

Very, very pleased

Blackman Stone: arrested and tried for various crimes against the empire, just for doing his best to stay alive? Given the regulations and bureaucracy, it's pretty easy to do... It has occurred to some of the higher-ups that somewhere, humanity has been aiding the enemy. And Stone is sent out to find out the how and why of it.

Anna says

Straight updownstre science fiction

Total science fiction and nothing else there. Great story line easy to follow with a few technical details to follow with the story.

Serge says

Much as I enjoyed all four "Metal Boxes" books, I was often hard to read due to numerous grammar and punctuation errors. I've mentioned before that the author managed to spell "hangar" correctly (for some reason, most of his SF writing colleagues never achieve that), but... "compliment" instead of "complement," "prosperous" instead of "phosphorus"; missing commas, commas where there shouldn't be any... Perhaps, after working for more than a quarter of a century in publishing, I can't help but noticing that crap, and most of readers just skip over it, but shouldn't the author at least try to make his books a bit better?

Duncan Holland says

Great series

Miles Vorkosigan move over a new child of an empire is trying to be heard. Great story telling an flow from book 1 onwards. Black get back writing need more.

Darrin L. says

Excellent Continuation of the Series

Author does a great job of moving the story forward. Old and new characters add great depth to the story and continue to show good depth. My only complaint is that there was not enough Drascos in the story. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Angela Higgins says

Great third book

Stone is in deep again as his family and friend rally around him. Can he beat a force sent from god? Find out in this page turner.

Wanda binz says

Great Read

This another great book in this series. The story just keep you wanting more. Truly exciting story action packed. Like I said keeps you wanting more. To the author keep writing these great books and I'll keep reading them.
