



## Turning Point

*Lisanne Norman*

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## **Turning Point** Lisanne Norman

Cut off from Earth by alien conquerors, the human colony on Keiss was slowly building an underground resistance movement to stand against the Valtegan invaders. But for many of the colonists, it was already too late.

Her twin sister Elise captured by Valtegan soldiers, Carrie telepathically and empathically linked with Elise, experienced all the pain and terror that her sister was suffering. Only her twin's death freed Carrie from torment, though it also left her completely alone in her own mind for the first time in her life. But this mental void was unexpectedly filled with Kusac, a felinoid crewman of a crashed starship, touched her thoughts. Drawn to him by their shared Talent, Carrie hid the injured Kusac from the Valtegons and in so doing found a friend and an invaluable ally.

Yet though trust and understanding between Carrie and Kusac was soon unshakable, it would prove far more difficult to convince each of their races that their only hope of overthrowing the Voltegons was to band together against the common foe. And even such an alliance offered no guarantee of success, for no one on any of the settled worlds had yet found a way to defeat this warrior race ready to lay waste to any civilization they could not conquer.

## **Turning Point Details**

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Author : Lisanne Norman

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## From Reader Review Turning Point for online ebook

### Jadetyger Sevea says

Read this a while ago. Good enough for me to want to check out the rest of the series. I wouldn't say it's fabulous, though.

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### Steven says

Turning Point by Lisanne Norman is a rousing bit of space opera. This obviously first novel is rough in areas in the writing, characterizations and dialog. Hey, that is what first novels are for. But I liked it and am glad I can start the second in the series right away.

Let me get the negatives out of the way. Carrie is an spoiled irritating bratty kid. The first half of the novel seems different from the second half. There are a lot of characters to keep track of and keep straight.

Now the good points. Carrie is vulnerable yet strong and talented. The first half of the novel introduces us to Carrie and Kusac, our main characters, in ways that explain their motivations and behaviors. There are a lot of characters who have different motivations and points of view. I think this last factor is one of the features that make the series seem attractive to me. The book narrative shifts from POV to POV and I need to remember what is the motivation and goals of each different character. Good practice for me in my old age.

I almost got tired of Carrie's whining. At times she seems like a spoiled child. But I accept it, mostly, as she is part of a struggling colony of Earthlings enslaved by the evil Valtegans and can't even get her family to respect her. She is having a really bad day. So, she gets a pass for some of the whingin and crying.

My new favorite thing in SciFi stories is intercultural/interspecies relations. No, I don't just mean hook-ups. This story introduces three species, humans, Valtegans and Sholans. The Sholans are cute and adorable, like our pets here on Earth. Seems kind of kinky to me. The relation between Carrie and Kusac becomes deeper and more important from page to page. It reaches the point where the interstellar progress of war efforts against the alien enemy are dependent of the progress of the relationship between these two. What a lot of pressure to put on a young couple.

I even like that the relationship does not seem overtly sexual in this novel. Maybe it is heading in that direction, In this book there is tension as to which human is Carrie likely to bond with or will she be forced to live with.

The other big theme in this book, in addition to the interspecies hookup, is telepathy. Both Carrie and Kusac are telepaths, while most of the other humans and Sholans are not telepathic. Telepathy plays a major role in the conduct of hostilities against the enslaving soldiers and even is responsible for the first connection between the two main characters and the ongoing reason they need to stay together.

I even like the storyline that her fellow humans are not very supportive of Carrie, who almost singlehandedly (with the help of Sholans and some human fighters in the hills) frees the entire colony planet from the evil enslaving aliens. She pretty much is forced to go off alone with the Sholans after the battle is over. Isn't that the way is always is? Your family doesn't appreciate your sacrifices and hard work, and just wants to impose their baggage on you!

I give 4 stars to this first in the series. It benefits from some grade inflation due to it being a first novel, and

having 7 more to follow in the series. Certainly the audience for this book is somewhat specialized. One should be OK with science fiction which includes space exploration. The reader needs to put up with a fair amount of fighting between small units of ground troops. The reader should not be offended by cross-cultural hookups; although this book is rated G for zero sex, so it is safe. And the hardest part for most people will be the choppy writing style and abrupt ending. I don't worry about the abrupt ending because this was written in the 1990s and the followup novels have been published for years. Enjoy it and tell your friends.

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## **Paige Ruhf says**

Possible Spoilers Ahead;

This is the first novel in the Sholan Alliance series by Lisanne Norman, and honestly one of my favorite Sci-Fi Romance series to date. This book is but the beginning of a much larger world we get to experience, and several of the characters met in this book are continued through the whole series, if not right away, later on in future novels as well.

In this book we not only meet Carrie and Kusac.. but we see their love story start to unfold. It begins with a beautiful friendship that develops into so much more. Carrie is scared at first because not only is Kusac the only other alien race her people have met but the ones she does know of are terrifying and malicious. This ends up not being the case with the Sholans(Kusacs Race). Carrie and Kusac fight a lot of obstacles including being the first in many to have an interspecies relationship.

While this first novel is very short compared to the many released after, it does not lack for story. It's constant and gripping while you wonder how they're going to save Carrie's home planet and get the Sholans back home. In the middle of all of this, Carrie and Kusac fall in love, fight people they once knew as family and friends, lose friends, gain friends, and fight a common enemy to gain their freedom back and begin a very long lasting alliance between two completely new to each other alien races.

So why not give this small but powerful first novel a chance? I promise you won't regret it, and you will soon find yourself immediately wishing you had the second book to pick up right after putting the first one down. I know I did and had to immediately order the rest of the series in one sitting. I don't regret buying a single one of Lisanne Norman's book that are not only amazing, but also teach us that true love is found in some of the most unusual circumstances.

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## **Laura Hamilton says**

### **Interesting culture clash.**

While alien cat species ate nothing new the telepathic aspect is a refreshing twist. It is not only about the complications of first contact but an unlikely romance between too very alien peoples. Kusac, the male alien protagonist, is coming of age due to unparalleled challenges. Carrie finds her own path after the death of a sister who had unintentionally mentally dominated her.

This is an entertaining read and much better than I expected.

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### **Amara says**

The First in this wonderful series introduces the reader to a Human girl on a colony planet with unusual abilities. Because of her telepathic gift she is feared by the others in her village save for her own family and one weasel of a man she wished would leave her alone. Into her life comes an alien from another world who, with his crew, crashed onto the colony planet after being attacked by a brutal reptilian race that had taken over the human colony and enslaved the people. A connection is formed between these two very different people. Of the mind and the heart. Their journey begins as they try to understand this strange bond, contact their allies, and free the human colony from their oppressors.

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### **Barbara Ghylin says**

I have the entire set in paperback somewhere in the garage. I decided to reread the series knowing that a new one is coming out. I now have all but 2 on e book. They are just as good as before!

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### **Michael says**

A great story full of action and adventure, with a little romance too.

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### **Rebecca says**

I was into this book at the beginning; there were a lot of elements that I liked, but the characterization as the book went along got less and less compelling. I found myself not caring about any of the characters as much as I wanted to, and the character development felt contrived. This is especially the case once the cast of characters takes a sharp increase. The frequent switches in POV between multiple characters are not well managed and the narrative loses some cohesion in the process.

Parts of the story felt rushed, while other parts felt like they were being paid far too much attention.

I also was unsatisfied with the dialogue. There were far too many exclamation points, conversation felt stilted and forced, and the dynamic between characters didn't seem real. In addition, the use of adverbs is mishandled and makes for a lot of awkward, distracting sentences.

It could have been an interesting story, but in the end I feel like it was a big let-down. I don't care enough about the characters or their situation to continue the series. If I came across a copy of the second book for free I would give the series another chance, since people have said this is her first novel, but I won't spend money on it.

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### **Dianne says**

As several other reviewers have said, I don't know how I finished this book. Unfortunately unlike the others who loved this book or who at least continued to read the series, I won't be doing so.

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For most of this book I had no clue as to whether or not this was being marketed to extremely young adults or to the adult readership. The characters in this book were stunted and acted like children most of the time. They are in their mid 20's. I realize that the author has to start somewhere and with a series can not fully flesh out the characters or they will leave no room for growth in future books, but this was extremely hard for me as an adult reader to grasp. There was not growth at all.

Much of the plot or should I just say pages, was taken up by repetitive nonsense i.e.explaining what a telepathic bond was, to various characters.

The aliens were not very alien like or at the very least how one would imagine beings of different species to be or act.

There was no growth to the characters and no advancement of the story.

This was an annoying and frustrating read and I'm amazed that I spent the day finishing it. If you like sci-fi with a bit of romance, then try the [[ASIN:0451457730 Stardoc]] series.

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## Joshua Palmatier says

I don't read a ton of science fiction, but my general impression of **Turning Point** by Lisanne Norman is that it is "classic" SF. It's not hard SF, certainly, but more along the lines of an adventure SF novel. The ton of the book, and the general flavor of the writing, is also more "classic" in nature, reminding me heavily of my days reading Andre Norton. This is not much of a surprise because it was published in 1993, so it is 17 years old.

So why am I reading it? Well, Lisanne Norman has a new book in this series coming out next month, so I thought I'd try to catch up. Seems reasonable to start at book 1. \*grin\*

In any case, the book was a little rough to read. I believe this is Lisanne's debut novel, so you expect a little roughness. The beginning of the book took some getting used to, with the style and the writing itself. There were parts that weren't smooth and there were issues with the emotional states and reactions of the characters. I had a few spots of confusion (especially with the prologue) and in some cases felt that the characters weren't reacting quite right. I kept going and I'm glad that I did, because many of these issues smoothed out as the book progressed. By the end of the novel, I could see that the author was settling into the world and the characters and that there would be some good things to come in future novels.

The issues started smoothing out once the main relationship between Kusac and Carrie was established and the true alienness of Kusac was revealed. And this is the main point of the novel, this idea that these two are telepathically linked, permanently, whether they like it or not. The rest of the novel is a standard SF action/adventure: they need to get to a transmitter to warn their respective worlds that an alien race has taken over the human colony on the planet and (more or less) enslaved the humans, while the Sholan (the race Kusac is from) scout party simply wants to warn them that this new violent race exists so they can protect their own portion of space.

I ranked this one a little lower simply because of the issues with the writing being rough at the beginning, and some of my problems with the unevenness of the characters. I did enjoy the novel enough to want to go on with the series and see what happens with this odd, forced pairing between Kusac and Carrie, and that is truly the intent of this first book--to set up that relationship. I can see great potential for interesting stories in the universe that has been established with this novel, and would recommend that those who enjoy SF start with this novel and keep reading, even if it does seem rough at the beginning.

## Devony says

I really love this series! This book grabbed my imagination & pulled me right in. Tho maybe not as fleshed out as it could be, this gem of a 1st book is a wonderful jumping point to the rest of the series. It is one of my favorites I still re-read;)

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## Cathleen Walker says

I finished it last night and I have to say that I do like it but I'm giving it 3 out of 5 stars for the simple fact that it is an lot of talking more than action. (and by that I mean not only is it A. Lot. Of. Talking. but its mostly about Kusac and Carrie's connection and Talent).

I love the flow of this story yes, and the characters, the concept and even the mission that these people found themselves moving into but... Let me at least give you a brief surmises of the plot.

War has been raging between the humans that have colonized this planet that they crashed on years ago and an large alien army that I'm assuming was there first.

Carrie and her twin sister Else had an connection to where they could not only talk to each other telepathically but Carrie had the ability to take on anything that Else would be feeling so Else came out the strong one and Carrie came off as the weaker, sicker sister. Else left the family to infiltrate the enemy by becoming an Escort (is what Im calling it.)because what better way to get information then to be sleeping with the enemy? But her plans were exposed and Carrie experienced her sister death.

Enter Kusac. He and his people crash on the planet and he crawls to the location of where he picked up Carrie's connection. Apparently they are both telepaths. She rescues him, some things happen and now she is with his people and they are going to fight against the bad guys by getting to this pod in the swamp to send an signal to the mother ship who doesn't know of them crashing making you wonder that if their ship had an good signal on it (which it did) then why didn't the mother ship pick it up when they were experience power failure and crashing thus no need for the pod and we can have an three way war sooner than later? AND help save the humans and themselves in the process.

You maybe wondering why I cut to the chase well its because yes they, Carrie and Kusac, created an bond to which they are now each others mates and to where he has this weird obsession with brushing her hair all the time. And she and his cat people are going to fight the bad guy aliens that are there and save themselves in the process then later on have an trial on Kusac and his human mate with the high counsel because he broke some laws while he was missing for three weeks.

Apparently telepaths are not allowed to actually fight nor have an life outside of just being an telepathic counselor even though they're in the military. Its required that they join or join in some form of government that is beneficial for the government.

Lets put it like this. They're basically Diana Troi of the USS Enterprise and their main goal in life is moral support and counseling for their unit and the Captain and giving him any information that is useful and beneficiary and nothing more because telepaths cannot be trusted beyond their abilities or else they may get this silly notion that they are equal and therefore deserve to have an life. Oh and take over their world damn mutants.

Well he finally grows some balls and takes on an woman. WOOHOO!

But the other reason is as I stated before. Its just basically every one talking and boy they talk more and more about Kusac and Carrie than anything else. Hell even Kusac and Carrie talk about Kusac and Carrie and this bond that they have. No one really ever talks about anything else that isn't related to these two aside from their current situation. I mean they do talk about what the plan is. How to execute it. and I even liked how it goes from "OMG You brought an hairless alien into our camp" to "We need you both and with you two working for us we can kick some ass!" One of the officers even challenges Kusac to an honor challenge that is basically last one standing and he kicks the officers ass getting badly hurt in the process but gosh darnit he showed that catman whose boss. Though with everyone jumping in to stop it and the officer lives, he still won and gets to walk around like he's batman with telepathic powers.

There is even scenes in which Carrie gets to show that she isn't just some weakling by not only being able to stand in joining on the talks of their missions but even came up with most of the tacticals thinking them up right there on her feet! Not to mention she even goes on an mission that she herself she came up with to get some help from one of the Guerrillas who knows the swamps to which this Pod is in. Even though Kusac is with her and he hides out keeping constant contact with her through their link, she still gets to do her stuff and show that she is more than just an emotional woman who wishes everyone would stop looking down on her as nothing more than just wife material. She gets to show what she had been saying all along to her family and village and man does she prove point. I mean she would have to be strong anyway to survive not only her mother's death when she and her twin sister were little but her sister's death and the torture her sister went through before she died.

But it isn't all bad. I mean the writer Lisanne, has created an world of in this book giving it some very nice and realistic details that slowly sucks you in and into its characters and I have to say that I am glad I found this book at my local book store.

But instead of us getting to know more about all these characters where they could have been talking about what they had for lunch or how they miss their families on the mother ship and their home, their relationships, earth or hell I don't care even talk about the biggest dump that they had in days would have been an nice a breath of fresh air in this story! I don't care just she (the writer) misses the opportunity to give us characters that we could have identified with and instead constantly reminding us that Carrie and Kusac are connected through brain sex!

Anyway I'm ready for the next book in this series and I'm not giving up on it. I just wished the next one isn't as bad and we get to move on from "The Connection"

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## **Calisto says**

Reread. Now I'm giving this book a (very) generous four stars. This is actually one of my favorite scifi series and I actually have a dead tree book dating back to '93 and it wasn't bought used either. \*Wow. I just totally dated myself haven't I? So at least one star is for reminding me of my misspent youth, but I still think this is a worthy read.

Carrie is a psychic human colonist in the planet of Keiss which is has been invaded by icky lizardy aliens called the Valtegeans. The humans have lived under occupation for over a decade with no real sign of relief despite a very active underground, guerrilla rebellion. In a life or death moment, Carrie bonds with another mind and it sets up a chain of events that will either liberate Keiss or destroy it.

Turning Point is an easy if somewhat uneven read. The beginning is especially disorienting but once Carrie

recovers from the original ordeal that caused her to bond with Kusac (our feline hero), the story gets rolling in a much more linear if at times somewhat abrupt pace.

In case it wasn't clear, this a 'soft' scifi with a heavy dose of romance and (especially as the series progresses) a liberal splash of erotic kink. Nowadays that is nothing new, but back in the early 90s this was pretty freaking cutting edge. I actually think that Lisanne Norman was just way ahead of the game and had she published this series ten years later, she would have been a huge hit in the scifi/paranormal romance genre.

There is no sex in this story. All of it is basically PG-13 action with a focus on the adventure action part instead of smexing good times. I can't help but wish that Norman would go back and flesh this first book out more because there are definite parts that could use more exposition while others could be cut because they don't move the story along. Having also recently reread the second book in the series, I wonder if it wasn't actually one story that Norman was asked to break into two books. Book 2 is definitely a different beast all together when compared to the simplicity of the this book.

I enjoyed my reread and the rollicking (furry kink) adventure does make it easier to be more forgiving of the choppy pace because it sets the foundation for a promising scifi universe. Just go into the series with the knowledge that at times it does feel a bit dated and quaint and you won't be disappointed.

PS. Be aware that if you like this series, have the all the books handy because Norman does love a cliffhanger.

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### **mlady\_rebecca says**

This is one of those books (or rather series) that I bought years and years ago, but never picked up. Not sure why, because I really enjoyed the first book.

Takes place on Earth's first colony planet, Keiss. Humans have their first two tastes of sentient Aliens, the lizard like Valtegens who want to enslave the humans and the cat like Sholans who wish to form an Alliance with the humans.

Carrie is a human that had a psychic connection with her twin sister. When her sister is killed by the Valtegens, Carrie is unsure if she can survive being alone in her own head. She reaches out and finds another mind like hers. They bond without having seen each other.

Kusac was injured when his scout craft was shot down by the Valtegens. Separated from his fellow Sholans, Kusac makes his way to the human village and the human girl that he has bonded with. Carrie initially mistakes him for a non-sentient jungle cat, but she goes out of her way to protect and care for Kusac.

When Carrie's father lays down the law, insisting she marries a man she doesn't love, Carrie runs away with her cat and discovers Kusac's true identity.

Enough summary stuff. Great book. I think I was drawn to it initially because of the furry angle. Alien kitty cats not that far from kitty cat versions of lycanthropy.

Although it was weird to go back to more pure SF/Fantasy after a heavy dose of paranormal romance and urban fantasy. Even though Carrie and Kusac are bonded together, and that bond has a sexual component, the most we got was some kissing, sensual hair brushing, and cuddling.

Not that it was fade to black, but they haven't allowed themselves to move that far with each other. Not that they've had much in the way of privacy. \*g\* But, yeah, I want to see the sex on stage. Hopefully they'll go there in one of the later books in the series. I'm spoiled. I want the SF/Fantasy and the romance/erotica in one package. \*g\*

X-posted to LJ.

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### **Coral Mitchell says**

Carrie is in her 20s but has been sheltered her entire life. Living under the rule of the Valtegans has not been easy for anyone on her colony. Kusac and his crew have crashed on the planet after encountering the Others and he is badly injured. Both are very immature and struggle to find balance with another species.

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