



Sky Raiders

Michelle Diener

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Sky Raiders

Michelle Diener

Sky Raiders Michelle Diener

First they flew their mysterious sky craft through the skies of Barit. Then they started attacking. Finally, they began to raid.

Garek's one year of duty as a guard walking the walls of Garamundo was extended to two when the sky raiders appeared. Two long years away from home and his lover, Taya. When he finally returns, the town is empty. While Garek was protecting Garamundo, the sky raiders were taking their victims from his hometown.

Taya can't bear looking into the night sky. All she can see is Barit, her home planet. Impossibly, the sky raiders have brought her and their other victims to Shadow, the planet that shadows her own, and looking up makes her aware of everything she's lost. Garek is out there somewhere. She knows he'll look, but he'll never find her.

She and the other captives have to find a way to escape. Without the food and clothes the sky raiders bring them from their raids on Barit, they'll starve on the almost barren wastes of Shadow. And when they've given the sky raiders enough of what they want, that's exactly what the sky raiders will leave them to do.

She does have an idea of how she can break free--the sky raiders have brought them to Shadow to mine for ore. A very special ore which Taya has worked out is as dangerous to the sky raiders as it is valuable.

What she doesn't realize is she'll have some help with her plan. Because Garek isn't giving up. And he's even more resourceful than she could ever have imagined.

Nothing is going to keep him from Taya. Not even space itself.

Sky Raiders Details

Date : Published August 2018 by Eclipse (first published December 15th 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Michelle Diener

Format : Kindle Edition 290 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Romance, Aliens, Science Fiction Romance

 [Download Sky Raiders ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sky Raiders ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Sky Raiders Michelle Diener

From Reader Review Sky Raiders for online ebook

Michelle Diener says

I thought it might be of interest to include the three articles I wrote about Sky Raiders just after it was released.

My Roots Are Showing

My latest novel, SKY RAIDERS, the first book in a new space opera trilogy, is in many strange ways a return to my writing roots.

While I wrote fantasy and even time travel novels before I was published by Simon & Schuster in 2011, my first published books were all historical novels.

I've always been a voracious reader of historicals, fantasies and science fiction, and I've always felt that they sit together comfortably because they are all, to a greater or lesser degree, true escapism. I find it as challenging, technically, to write a historical scene as a science fiction scene, needing to draw on the world I'm working with and its rules to create something believable. In historicals, this means research and in science fiction or fantasy, this means the rules and backstory I have made up.

As I worked on the Sky Raiders series, with SKY RAIDERS the first novel, and it was only after a while that I realized I was writing a novel that easily mirrored the invasion of Kwa-Zulu Natal by the Victorian Empire that I'd written about in my historical novel DAUGHTER OF THE SKY, as it was about a planet, Barit, invaded by aliens who were far more technically advanced.

That Victorian theme continued when I was thinking hard about the way one of the cultures on Barit treat their women. The idea of putting women on a pedestal as a way to disempower them is extremely Victorian. The Victorians pretended they were honoring the feminine, but instead were condescending to women by denying them experiences and power 'for their own good'. But I obviously like to mix things up, because rather than a Victorian level of technology on Barit, the level is more analogous to the Renaissance, with walled cities. But I didn't stop there. Into the mix, I threw the Hallstatt Culture. This Celtic culture which gets its name from Hallstatt, near Salzburg in Austria, has always fascinated me, and there are definite threads of this culture in the people of Barit.

Another fun tradition I incorporated was the Viking Clap – although it isn't exactly the same in Sky Raiders, the inspiration definitely comes from this. (Those who want to see it in action, performed by 100,000 Icelanders on the triumphant return of the Icelandic soccer team after a big win during the European Cup, can check it out here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTq_v...). The Viking Clap wasn't actually invented by the Icelanders, it's from Motherwell in Scotland, but whoever is doing it, it's awesome to watch. And staying with Iceland, I also used their real women's Day Off, which happened in 1975, where over 90% of Icelandic women took a day off and didn't do any work to protest their lower pay (60% of what men were earning) and the general inequality of women in the workforce. Laws were passed the following year guaranteeing gender equality in the workforce (the Day Off literally shut the country down for the day) and although true change was a little slower, Iceland does now have one of the highest levels of gender equality in the workforce in the world.

I think it was inevitable that my years of writing historicals would find a way to touch my science fiction work, and I had a lot of fun, and gave a lot of thought, to the use to which I put my historical background. I think fictional cultures with some basis in real culture, however much of a mix they are, make for a more

believable, more interesting world, and I hope my readers think so, too.

Star-crossed Lovers Who Won't Bow to Their Fate

The official definition of star-crossed lovers is two people who love each other deeply but cannot be together because fate is against them. Whatever is written in their stars means they are doomed to never find happiness, never be together.

Obviously, this is not a HEA or even a HFN situation :)

Romeo and Juliet, Tristan and Isolde . . . they're the gold standard of star-crossed lovers, but when I was writing Sky Raiders, I thought a lot about the concept, because I kept thinking of Garek and Taya, my hero and heroine, as star-crossed, but only to a point. They love each other, and fate keeps them apart, but neither of them accepts this.

Garek throws caution to the wind and never lets the obstacles in front of him even slow him down in his determination to get to Taya. And she, equally, is driven not only to survive, but also to work a way out of her situation, because she will not give up her desire to be with Garek again.

It was so much fun, but also really poignant, to write a love story like Garek and Taya's, and I loved every minute of it. I hope my readers enjoy it just as much. Tristan and Isolde, but without the downer at the end :)

The Making of Sky Raiders

Some books take longer than others. :) I wish they all fell onto the page with no effort and much joy, but that's not how it goes, sadly. I started writing Sky Raiders back in 2013. I wrote, and then I stopped, and then I wrote some more. Then I put it aside completely as I worked on the Class 5 series.

The reason for this is that the story was still brewing in my head. The cultures and world I wanted to build on my imaginary planet of Barit, the overreaching ARC of the series, needed time to come together in my head.

I would think of it fondly, play music I associated with it (like Flora's Secret by Enya (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESiRI...>), which is what I imagine was playing in the heavens when Garek and Taya lay together in the meadows above Pan Nuk) as I worked on the Class 5 series, and looked forward to working on it when the time was right.

When that time came, I knew I'd done the right thing. Writing Sky Raiders was still challenging, but my subconscious had done a lot of work for me, and I was able to clearly visualize the world I wanted to describe.

It's always satisfying when I finish a book, but when I finished Sky Raiders, it felt really good. Like the end of a journey that has been as satisfying to make as to complete.

I hope my readers enjoy it just as much.

Michelle

Marta Cox says

Sometimes it's nice to read a little science fiction and this authors previous books have been so inventive that I was keen to read this the first of a new series. It's an adventure really as two estranged lovers fight to find each other.

Garek is a soldier with the ability to manipulate air but he was lied to and conscripted for not the original one year as planned but two! He's finally home , ready to return to his beloved Tara but when he arrives it's only to discover that Tara and many others have been spirited away and are no longer on the planet!

Tara longs for freedom from the mines she and her people are forced to work in but the aliens who have captured them have technology that is unknown to Tara's more simplistic people. Yet Tara won't give up and keeps looking for a way to defeat their captors. Unknown to her though is the fact that Garek is not about to let the woman he loves go!

I found this very easy to read in an afternoon and it simply flowed in a way that had me eagerly turning the pages. First I have to say I loved the ever calm and resourceful Tara! She's the sort of person that thinks outside the box and if there's pressure building then Tara is definitely someone you want on your side. Yes there are the Sky Raiders to contend with but unfortunately there are also enemies within the camp!

The chapters switch to give both Gareks and Tara's side of the story and I have to say there's never a dull moment. Garek is pretty gung ho and determined that nothing and no one will stand in his way. Yet even as I cheered for him I also liked the way the author added political intrigue and it's clear that changes are on the horizon .

Aliens, danger and romance all come together here but there's a slight paranormal twist too that I feel is only just beginning to be explored. The contrast between technology and what those on planet Barit can do makes for a very interesting scenario indeed!

Paraphrodite says

3.75 stars.

A good start. I liked how a low-tech but "talented" people can fight back against high-tech alien invaders. Garek and Taya make strong leads and Aidan a good "side-kick". Looking forward to seeing how the trilogy plays out.

Coral says

Plot: 4.5/5

Characterisation: 4/5

Prose: 3.5/5

How much I enjoyed it: 5/5

Shasha says

Slow starting but so awesome

I wasn't sure about the beginning, it seemed focused on attempted rape and cultural differences. But then it came together and I was eagerly reading one chapter to the next.

The story is told from the points of view of the hero and heroine. They are less technologically advanced than their enemies, the sky raiders. Instead, they have elemental powers. This is a triumphant tale but leaves at least three big problems to be addressed in future stories. I can't wait!

Read in KU
Mature themes

Riley says

A new book from a favorite author is always exciting. A new book in a brand new series – even better!

In **Sky Raiders**, Michelle Diener has crafted a wonderful new world – Barit. The descriptions of walled cities, liege-based political divisions, farmers and crafters gives Barit a medieval feeling. The sky raiders are just so out of place. To the pre-industrial humans, the sky raiders with their flying ships and white lighting are powerful, mystical, and dangerous.

But there is something powerful, mystical and dangerous about some of the inhabitants of Barit. Some have the ability to call the 'Change'. The ability to manipulate certain elements. Air, water, earth. That the low tech-talent is a threat to the technologically advanced sky raiders is not only ironic, but by redefining the balance between the adversaries, it is just.

Garek is one that can call the Change and he may be the one of the most powerful when he calls it. This makes his life more complicated than he wants it to be. It got him an extra year of conscripted service to Garamundo when all he wanted was to be with his love Taya. While he was gone, Taya, along with many others, was taken by the sky raiders and now, all Garek wants is to find her and rescue her.

The romance of Garek and Taya began before the time of the book, so you don't see that development except through memories of the characters. But Taya and Garek are truly in love and will do anything to find each other. They just happen to have a lot of other people along for the ride. The lack of a developing romance did not bother me at all. The well-established romance left room for the author to develop other aspects of the story: the setting, the people, the conflict.

The story of **Sky Raiders** is told from both Garek's and Taya's viewpoint, alternating between Garek's heroic efforts to find and rescue her and Taya's equally heroic struggle to escape from the sky raiders who are using their captives as slave labor.

The sky raiders need the slave labor because there is something they want but they cannot survive in the atmosphere of Barit or its sister world Shadow. When on planet, a raider must wear an awkward robotic suit. Even their equipment breaks down quickly in the atmosphere. This seems to be an extreme disadvantage, but typical of any technologically advanced society, they have the required arrogance needed to make them believe they can handle the disadvantages.

In addition to the struggle with the sky raiders, the people of Barit have their own problems to deal with. It seems like a threat from the stars might unite all people to defend their world. Not so on Barit. The feudal-like system they live under works well as long as the lieges are strong and are able to command their people's loyalty. Power struggles among the lieges add to the problems the people of Barit must deal with. One of the key characters, Aiden, is the heir apparent to one of the lieges. His position is both a complication and an asset during the rescue of the people stolen by the sky raiders. I like Aiden. He added humor, perspective and some interesting facets to the tale.

There are also different races. The Illy are the main race. The sky raiders have enslaved Illy and Kardanx. There are two major differences between these peoples. The Kardanx have, in effect, bred out the Change ability, using cruel and bloody methods. The second difference is in how they treat their women and that difference will cause conflicts between the Illy and Kardanx.

Among the Illy, strong women, like Taya, are not unusual. And cultures that don't treat women as equal or as less important than men, such as the Kardanx, are depicted as less than enlightened. A secondary character, Min, the half-breed Kardanx-Illy, was generally as tough as Taya, and did not let any Kardanx get to her even though she feared them. The desirability of a strong woman as a leader is a theme that recurs several times.

The world that Michelle Diener has created in **Sky Raiders** is gratifyingly complex. But it is not just the world of the Illy and Barit. The sky raiders are out there in space. What do they want? And are there more of them? There is so much going on in this book, you will find plenty to keep the pages turning. The end was satisfying, while letting you know there is much more to the story. I'll be looking forward to the next chapter.

The author provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Originally posted at Whiskey With My Book.

Douglas Meeks says

I can save you some time if you read and loved Dark Horse you are going to love this one as well, it has some very basic similarities as far as being what is called a "space opera" (I have no clue why) it is a science fiction adventure that is based around a romance (or maybe it is the other way around).

Garek was forced to leave the love of his life for conscription in the guard for what was supposed to be 1 year but due to some political machinations he was kept for 2 years, when he returns his love Taya is gone with most of his village, take by the sky raiders (hence the title).

Garek and Taya's civilization are somewhere around 17th or 18th century level if this was Earth and obviously they have little defense against the sky raiders but some people like Garek have special abilities that allow them to fight them more effectively.

This book is taken up with Garek's mission to get Taya back which is going to be hard since they have moved all their prisoners to another nearby planet for reasons that will be explained in the book.

It was a great story, but these David and Goliath type tales are always a great story.

Bottom Line: Loved the story, I am assuming that this will be a trilogy from her other writings but as with her previous SF trilogy, each book has a good ending and no cliffhangers involved so for this first installment 4 Stars for a great story and making you want to scream for the next one because it was so good and you want to see where this story goes from here.

Lynn says

The planet Barit has been attacked by the sky raiders who are an alien race previously unknown to this largely agrarian, non-technically advanced society. The invaders attacked the planet's inhabitants kidnapping many of them and continue to raid Barit's resources. Garek, a villager from Pan Nuk, had been conscripted from his rural home to serve and protect as a Guard in the major city of Garamundo and then help fight the invaders. What was supposed to have been only a year became a forced second one because he is the strongest Guard ever seen. When Garek finally arrives home it is to find his village empty with the woman who is his heart missing. Taya and her people have been taken to a nearby planet called Shadow to work in the mines as slave labor for the enemy sky raiders. They live closely watched by the enemy forced to labor day and night for the Shadow ore that the raiders need but cannot access themselves. Garek sets out again with a plan to steal a raider ship he brought down with a special ability known as the Change which can call elements of nature to his aid. He does not know where Taya and her people are, but he will do anything, make any sacrifice, to get her back. Taya and her group are making their own plans to overcome their enslavers while having to deal with adversarial factions within their rough camp. Back on the home planet, political machinations are also going on complicating all that Garek and those wanting to save the stolen people can accomplish.

Taya and her helpers prove to be resilient and resourceful in covertly opposing the hated sky raiders. As desperately as Garek is trying to get to Taya, she is also working to find a way back to him. They are apart for the first half of the book as it takes time to work out their individual plans and implement them. Taya discovers her own hidden talent learning that even though she was not trained for fighting, she can be a warrior for her people as well as an effective partner in battle to the man she has waited such a long time to see. Taya has a kind, compassionate nature as well as being fiercely protective of those whom she loves. Garek's equally strong dedication to love and protect her while helping his people shows his worthy qualities as well. They will need all their strength and cunning to find a way back to each other and bring everyone home.

This initial story in a series of interconnected new space operas (think Star Wars) from Michelle Diener has intense action and adventure with a romance element. Fans of her Class 5 series will be most happy to go on this exciting journey to new worlds; first time readers will be in for quite a treat as well.

Nancy (The Avid Reader) says

Garek was assigned guard duty for one year walking the walls of Garamundo but after the Sky Raiders showed up his one year was extended to two years. All Garek wanted was to return home to be with his beloved Taya. But unbeknownst to Garek the Sky Raiders took Taya along with other family members and friends to the planet Shadow to mine the ore there that is more dangerous to the Sky Raiders than it is valuable.

Taya and the other prisoners on Shadow have no clue what the Sky Raiders want with the ore but they know how afraid they are of it. Taya is a very smart and resourceful girl and has a plan working in her mind for escaping and for how helpful the ore is going to be for them.

Taya thinks about her home planet Barit and Garek every night while looking up in the night sky. She wants to return home so she can be with her friend and lover Garek more than anything. She knows that Garek is out there looking for her but she knows in her heart and mind that there is no way he will ever find her.

After two long years Garek finally returns home only to find everyone gone and that the Sky Raiders are

responsible. Garek has no idea where the Sky Raiders have taken Taya and the others but he will not stop until he finds them no matter how long it takes. But Garek is a very resourceful man as well and he has a plan too.

When I read the summary for Sky Raiders and saw that it was about people living in outer space and traveling to other planets I thought Star Trek and then I just had to read it. It did make me think about Star Trek, Captain Kirk and Spock visiting other planets. I really and truly loved the world the author created for Sky Raiders with the aliens and taking the people to another planet. Taya is a very smart and strong person who is not afraid to stand up and fight for not only herself but especially for others no matter what the cost to own self.

I would like to recommend Sky Raiders to anyone who loves to read about space and spaceships or who just loves science fiction or anyone loves Star Trek. Sky Raiders turned out to be way more than I thought it would be.

Lindap says

4.25 / 4 Stars

Like Diener's Class 5 series I enjoyed Sky Raiders, and will continue on with this series.

The Sky Raiders are an advanced race that come to Garek's planet, Barit, to scoop up people to work as slaves off planet. On Shadow there is something the Sky Raiders want, but can't get it themselves because they can't breathe the air there. When Garek comes back after 2 years of forced service he finds all the people have disappeared from his village. When he finds out what happened to them his mission is to get them back...at any cost. This story is between a technically superior race VS a medieval race with supernatural powers.

Stephanie (Bookfever) says

At first I had a pretty hard time getting into Sky Raiders. I may also have had a mini reading slump so that didn't really help things. After the first 50% I started getting more into the book and I was getting more invested in all the characters. I wish I had liked the story a little more since I absolutely loved Michelle Diener's other sci-fi trilogy, Class 5 but I'm still looking forward to the next two books to see where everything will be going.

Garek has been away for two years due to guard duty that had been extended to two years instead of one. When he finally gets back, he arrives at his home town only to find it empty because the sky raiders have taken everyone, including the woman he loves, Taya. Meanwhile Taya and the other people the sky raiders have taken have been brought to Shadow where they are forced to work in the mine. Garek is working on a plan to save Taya while Taya is working on a plan to get off Shadow and back to her home planet.

The story is written in dual point of view by Garek and Taya. I always felt myself drawn more to Garek's POV. Not that I didn't like Taya also but I loved him as one of the lead characters, especially when he was trying to get to Taya. Another favorite character of mine was Aidan Hansard who kind of had to go along with Garek to find Taya. I really liked how their friendship developed out of a sort of necessity.

I found myself almost not being able to wait until Garek and Taya finally would be reunited and once they did it was worth all the trouble they both had to go through. I loved them as a couple and how they both wouldn't stop until they would find each other. To me this book also had a certain fantasy element because some of the characters could call upon the change and basically control an element, which I thought was very cool.

Sky Raiders by Michelle Diener had a slow start for me. Like I said, I had a hard time getting into it. There was loads of action in the story which was something I loved but I still missed a certain "oomph", to be honest. But I still thought it was a great sci-fi adventure and a good start of this new trilogy.

Ann Lou says

Very interesting. Sci fi and fantasy in one. I loved this author's Class 5 series. And I am loving this one, as well.

The characters are very likeable. I can't wait what's going to happen next.

Mara says

I think this is the best book Ms Diener has written until now. A mix of sci fi e fantasy, it has a strong female lead that was easy to like.

The story has an end, but as this is a trilogy, it's not fully satisfying :) One thread ends, but the others will have their own story. The love story is important, but it's not all the story. On the contrary it's the supporting cast in a way. This isn't a romance, as in boy-meet-girl story and they fall in love. It's about what happen if they divide the boy and the girl, and what both have to do to reunite .. and save a world at the same time. Well, it's more interesting than that, sorry. It's always so much more difficult to explain why we like a book :)

It has a few cons, namely the super easy way a few things developed, but they didn't mar my enjoyment.

Corina BookTwinsReviews says

4 stars

SciFi Space Opera at its finest.

I found Michelle Diner exactly one year ago. Her book Dark Horse (Class 5, #1) was recommended by one of my most trusted writers, and I just had to try it. I was literally blown away by the quality of her writing

and outstanding storytelling.

Action, space adventure and a touch of romance, a strong heroine and a wonderful hero, and you got a hit. At least that's how I felt about her books.

In Sky Raiders Garek and his love Taya were ripped apart by alien Sky Raiders. The more advanced species was searching a particular material and they used Garek and Taya's home planet as a source for workers. When Garek came home after two years of working as a guard protecting their capital and he found his home town raided and Taya gone.

Garek, smart, strong, and resourceful didn't take long to figure out what was going on and started to plan a rescue mission.

Even so their home planet Barit was not as advanced as the aliens, their genetics balanced it out giving them other skills. Some inhabitants of Barit were able to call the Change. The Change was a manipulation of water, air and earth. In Garek's case he manipulated air in such a way that had not been seen before. His skill was one of the reasons why he was so thought after as a guard.

While Garek searched for a way to reunite with Taya. Taya and the other captives were stranded on a neighboring planet, without any way back to Barit. The Sky Raiders used the captured inhabitants to mine for a specific ore. While in such close proximity to the mineral Taya discovered her own talent. She was able to manipulate the shadow ore, a kind of iron that the Aliens were particular interested in. Suddenly the prisoners weren't helpless anymore and the captives started making their own escape plans.

Sky Raiders was as fascinating as I hoped it would be. Her talent of combining science fiction with romance was fantastic. I've always liked romance in my books. But I would never say no to a great adventure and space travel opera. And Michelle Diener's book made all that happen. I absolutely adored this book. It was captivating, entertaining and unique. And I can't wait to read the next in this series.

Kara-karina says

3.5/5

While I was a little bit disappointed that Sky Raiders wasn't connected to Diener's previous space opera series, it was still a very entertaining read. A clash of high technology with a medieval magical world made for a fascinating story.

Garek has an affinity for air, one of the strongest there is, which means he is a hot commodity and has been serving as a guard on the walls of Garamundo for way too long. There is a girl waiting for him back home and he is determined to go back, grab her and start a new life somewhere else. Only when he arrives, his whole village is abandoned as most of the people were taken by sky raiders, and Taya disappeared with them.

Now Garek is plotting the impossible and is determined to get his beloved back. It's actually really fun to watch him figuring out the technology of sky raiders, and he finds an interesting accomplice along the way too.

?? ?? ?????????? ??????? ?????? ?????????? ??? ??????

????????? ??????? - ?????? ?????????????? ?????????????? ?????? с ?????? ?????????? ??????, ?? ?????????????? ??????.
???? ?????? ?????????????? ??????????????, ? ?????? ?????????????? ??? ?? ?????? ??????????????, ?? ? ??????, ??
????? ??????? ?? ?? ?????? ? ?????????? ?????? ??????. ?????? ?????????? ?? ??. ???, ?????? ?????????? ??????.

? ?????, ??????????????. ????????????
