



Victorious

Jack Campbell

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As war continues to rage between the Alliance and Syndicate Worlds, Captain "Black Jack" Geary is promoted to admiral-even though the ruling council fears he may stage a military coup. His new rank gives him the authority to negotiate with the Syndics, who have suffered tremendous losses and may finally be willing to end the war. But an even greater alien threat lurks on the far side of the Syndic occupied space.

Victorious Details

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From Reader Review Victorious for online ebook

[Name Redacted] says

You

Colin Mitchell says

This is the final book in this part of the Lost Fleet saga and finds John Geary and the fleet returned triumphant to Alliance space. There is has to convince the General Congress of the Alliance federation of his action. Then there is the possibility that he might be about to start a military coup. The story moves on to his overcoming the politicians and moving back into space in order to try to bring the 100 years war with the Syndicate Worlds to an end. Then there is the threat posed by the suspected alien force beyond the Syndicate Empire. Lots of politics and how might the conquered worlds treat John Geary and his fleet. On the side there is his relationship with Captain Tanya Desjani and his great niece Jane Geary, the daughter of his brother's son, how confusing is that, and herself a ships Captain.

The stories have become a little repetitive at least in the fleet manoeuvring and battle sequences but the politics and personal relationships continue to fascinate with not a dry eye at the end. There is another series. Lost Fleet:Beyond the Frontier but not certain that I will fly with that one.

Have only marked as a three but possibly 3.5 for the ending alone.

Claus Aranha says

The 6 books in this series (the lost fleet) could probably be compressed into two or three books. Each paperback is about 300 pages long, but it feels that much less is happening in each book than the number of pages would suggest.

The strategic parts and the description of battles near light speed are really thought provoking, fun, and easily the best part of the series.

On the other hand, the characters (with a few exceptions) are poor, and the romantic subplots are even worse. The author's idea of relationship seems to be two people shouting "you will never understand me!" at each other, and that is not fun to read at all.

It would also be nice to have an empathetic enemy in the series. All the antagonists are either single-mindedly evil, facelessly doing their job, or secretly wishing they could side with the protagonist.

I enjoyed books 1, 5 and 6 the most, since they depart from the "win battle-fight with romantic interest-win battle-fight with romantic interest" pattern of the other books.

Nicolas says

Ce sixième tome clôture réellement (par opposition aux fausses fins de ... par exemple ... la pénible sage d'Honor Harrington) les aventures de Jack Geary, capitaine (et ensuite amiral) de la flotte, qui a botté les fesses des syndics à peu près partout où il passait, pour finir par les forcer à la paix dans leur système spatial central. Evidemment, la bataille sera monumentale, mais elle ne sera rien à côté de deux phénomènes si typiques de ce genre de SF : l'attaque des méchants extra-terrestres, et l'Amour qui toujours triomphe des obstacles. L'Amour prenant cette fois-ci la tête du capitaine Desjani, capitaine de pavillon de notre amiral dont il s'est amouraché bien des tomes plus tôt.

Je ne critique pas vraiment cette tentative d'humaniser Geary, parce que c'est une bonne idée. Au lieu d'avoir un soldat dévoué corps et âme à la Victoire de Sa Patrie, on a ici un homme, un vrai, qui passe pas mal de temps tiraillé entre son envie d'en finir avec cette guerre et le nécessaire carnage que ça va entraîner. Il y passe pas mal de temps, mais il ne s'appitoie néanmoins pas sur son rôle de chef contraint à des décisions iniques : il a choisi d'être commandant (bon, pas vraiment d'être amiral) mais, si'il est surpris par la facilité avec laquelle ses collègues non congelés se remettent de l'horreur des combats, il ne semble pas non plus souffrir du syndrome du survivant (qui est à mon avis une invention de notre époque, plus qu'une réalité intemporelle du soldat - oui, je dis ça de mon bureau). N'emêche, il préfère vivre sa vie (même si elle le conduit dans un futur nécessairement différent et inconnu) plutôt que de se lamenter ad nauseam sur toutes les souffrances du passé. Et j'aime ça.

J'aime aussi toujours autant la façon dont il utilise son cerveau pour mettre au point des tactiques aussi surprenantes qu'efficaces tout en déjouant les pièges de ses adversaires, des pièges cette fois-ci assez subtils, d'ailleurs. Entre les syndics qui préfèrent se débarrasser de leur flotte plutôt que de le laisser survivre, et les extra-terrestres qui se montrent toujours aussi vicieux, clairement, il y a de quoi faire en termes de malignité. Bon, il y a cependant dans ces histoires des aspects un peu gênants, qui à mon avis sont inhérents à la SF militariste. Tiens, l'exemple le plus frappant tient précisément à la guerre. Pour arriver à ses fins, Geary n'hésite pas vraiment à balancer des projectiles cinétiques sur toute installation qu'il estime dangereuse. Au niveau des dommages collatéraux, ça se pose assez vite là : quand tu bosses dans une station d'extraction d'Helium au bord d'une géante gazeuse, et que tu dois évacuer en urgence, pas sûr que tu aie assez d'air pour attendre les secours (surtout quand ils ont décidé que tu étais un civil sacrificable). En revanche, quand tu dézingues un vaisseau de guerre ennemi, bien sûr, tu vas aller secourir ces braves soldats ennemis ... les civils par contre, non. Pire encore, le jour où tu montes une opération d'exfiltration d'un camp de prisonniers de guerre, te pose pas trop de question avec les civils qui traînent autour (et qui sont d'ailleurs en pleine guerre civile).

Tant qu'on parle des civils, on peut aussi parler des politiciens, desquels l'auteur semble dans cette série de roman n'avoir vraiment pas une bonne image. Et encore, je litote un peu. Parce qu'aucun des politiciens évoqués dans cette oeuvre n'apparaît autrement que comme un manipulateur amoral. Je crois même qu'aucun n'essaye de changer cette image. J'espère que c'est parce que l'auteur essaye de nous présenter les relations entre l'armée comme bras armé du peuple et son donneur d'ordre (qui forcément ne comprend pas les nécessités de l'action). Mais quand même, ça fait mal.

Cela dit, il ne s'agit que de défauts mineurs face à une action qui, même si elle s'érousse vers la fin de ce tome, n'a jamais dérogé à l'objectif clair de l'auteur : une énorme bataille par roman, et quelques escarmouches moyennes en bonus.

Du coup, forcément, l'intérêt de la série est somme toute moyen : si vous voulez voir de la ferraille voler dans l'espace (et éventuellement se mettre sur la tronche), c'est parfait, sinon passez votre chemin.

Debrac2014 says

Good read! This story is the last of the Lost Fleet, enemy vanquished and fleet returns home!

Kat Hooper says

Originally posted at FanLit:

<http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

Victorious is the sixth and last book in Jack Campbell's original LOST FLEET series. (If you haven't read the previous books, you'll want to read them before reading this review.)

Captain Black Jack Geary and the Alliance fleet have finally arrived, battered and bruised, to their home in the Alliance system and Geary's feet touch ground for the first time in 100 years. Not surprisingly, the Alliance senate is leery of Geary (ugh, that rhyme!) and suspect that he may be planning a coup. But all he wants to do is deliver the ominous news from space about the aliens who've been driving the Syndic-Alliance war all this time. Surely they have bad intentions toward the human races they've been manipulating.

So, after only a brief respite, Captain Geary, Tanya Desjani, Victoria Rione, and many of the other officers of the Alliance fleet, head back out in space to end the war with the Syndics and then to deal with an alien race that they know almost nothing about. This time many of their crew are newbies who are ill-prepared for war and who don't understand the new ways that Geary has brought to the military. (Or, I should say, the old ways that Geary has brought back to the military.) Geary can't completely trust them, but he can't afford to offend them either. There's a sensitive balance.

Well, from the title of the book, we all know how it's going to end, but the journey is what we're interested in. How can Geary end the war? What are the aliens like and what do they want? Can he stop them? Is Michael Geary still alive, and if so does his survival depend on what Black Jack does? What about Victoria Rione's missing husband? Will Geary and Tanya end up together? Will Geary be able to have a relationship with his grandniece? Some of these questions will be answered in Victorious, some I suspect are answered in the spin-off series, and some we may never know...

I'll wrap up my review of the LOST FLEET series by summing up my main impressions. This is an engaging story with a great protagonist, a few likeable secondary characters (though they are not as interesting or as well fleshed out as Black Jack Geary is), an exciting but often repetitive plot that occasionally strays into unbelievable territory when our characters are able to anticipate the enemies' plans, and a touch of appealing humor. It would have benefitted by having its length reduced by about a third. I slightly resent that I had to shell out money for six books when I feel like it should have been only four books long, but based on reviews at Amazon and Goodreads, most readers were happy to do so.

I read the audio version of THE LOST FLEET which was produced by Brilliance Audio and wonderfully narrated by Christian Rummel. One thing I have neglected to mention in my previous reviews are Jack Campbell's (John G. Henry's) delightful introductions to the book. These are short information-filled pieces in which he may answer a question from a reader which gives us insight into some aspect of his creation of the story. Often he compares his created world with his experience or knowledge of the modern American military. For example, in the introduction to Victorious, he mentions that readers have asked why his spaceships don't have back-up power generators and then goes on to explain how and why they're often not included in current designs for military equipment. I enjoyed these little nuggets of information. If you're going to read THE LOST FLEET, I highly recommend the audio version.

Paula says

What a joy these books were to read. All out action, I've started the next series but will take it slow cause I need a break from full on scifi.

Mr. Matt says

The story of Admiral Geary the Lost Fleet comes to a close. Wracked by massive losses in the war, and with their economy pushed to the brink, the Syndicate worlds collapse into chaos. Star system after star system is engulfed in Civil War. Into this fray, the newly promoted Fleet Admiral Geary leads the Alliance forces to the Syndicate home system for the final battle to end this hundred year war.

The remnants of the Syndicate fleet are waiting for Geary. They are led by the same ruthless, cunning CEO who out-foxed the Alliance at the beginning of the series. And, to make matters worse, the Executive Council has a nasty trap waiting for Geary. This being one of the Lost Fleet books, you can probably already guess what happens next. Geary and his crew out-think and out-fight the Syndics and win the day - despite the devilish, last minute intervention on the part of the mysterious alien race.

Now, with victory at hand, the aliens - the Enigma race - finally come out into the open. They use the weakness of the Syndicates to try to seize a chunk of Syndicate space, thereby relocating (or worse) billions of humans. Geary and his ships, of course, race to the rescue and end the book in an epic confrontation with the Enigma race. Once again, he manages to out-think and out-fight these mysterious aliens who have been working to undermine humanity for hundreds of years. (What are the odds?)

I'm worried that these books are growing a bit stale for me. The combat and politics are great. I like big space battles and political maneuvering - plots and counter-plots. Unfortunately, the character development in the series is just ... well ... stale. After six or seven books I want more development out of my characters. I want to care about them. And I just don't. They are devices to move the plot along rather than living, breathing characters. The best representation of this is Geary himself. He is the driver of the story - the great hero. But he just doesn't feel real to me - especially in the Space Opera relationship with his Captain.

On that note, some people have said that Geary is modeled after Washington - the great hero of the American Revolution. Washington was a man who, if the stories are true, always did the right thing. It is true that he resisted efforts to make him a King of Dictator. That's kind of like Geary. That being said, I think the true model for Geary is not Washington, but Washington's own idol, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, the great roman Consul and Dictator, who, when the crisis had passed, left Rome and returned to his farms in the provinces. That's what Geary does in this book. He lays down his Rank and tries to walk away.

All of the above aside, I am still pushing on in the series. The main story arc of the conflict between humanity and the aliens is a good one. I like the space combat, and I am curious to see where it all goes.

Three broadsides of hell-lances out of five.

Dirk Grobbelaar says

At last – it's come to this. The final instalment in the *Lost Fleet* series, except I see there is a new sequence that's just kicked off with Dreadnaught. Not quite sure what that is about even though I can garner a good guess, but for now, this is where the metal meets the meat.

For a final book in a military Sci-Fi series, *Victorious* is perhaps a bit subdued, at first glance. There are none of the huge space battles, which pretty much defined the series up to this point, for the full first half of the book (and a bit). Yet, the pacing is still pretty good and it never gets boring. There is a lot of tactical and strategic maneuvering leading up to the expected, and inevitable, engagement with the Syndics, but when it comes it's all over so fast that it's almost a bit of an anti-climax. Um, if you think the Alliance and Syndic fleets meeting in battle is a spoiler, then you haven't been paying attention in class. Of course, and **fortunately**, things don't end there. There is the little matter of the Enigma aliens that has to be dealt with.

I've been itching to know what the aliens' story is since they were first alluded to in the earlier *Lost Fleet* books, but the author seemed very reticent about the issue, skating around the subject book after book until, well, now. This part of the novel is arguably the more suspenseful and more enjoyable part of *Victorious*.

All told, there is no new ground broken here and no **real** surprises. This is the sixth and final instalment in a series that has been pretty consistent in both presentation and content. Again, the novel reads *really* fast, and if you've already read books one through five, you'd be silly not to read this. As for the series as a whole: was it worth it? It sure was.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Okay...great book, great series. I almost went down to 4 stars because of the continuing underlying love story, the unspoken (because of honor) love of Black Jack ("I'm not Black Jack") for the Captain. Still, handled well and I got passed it. At least it wasn't still with our resident politician who has been one of the great annoyances in this series, neither did the love story overwhelm the storyline.

Still one of the better military/semi-space opera reads I've come across. Dealing with two long standing historical legend/archetypes and laying them in a science fiction universe, doing it well with a good plot, in depth characters and plenty of action. Again, great book.

Here our hero is finally poised to tie things up in the war..if he can balance between holding on to command and preventing his crews from a military coup to put him in power. But don't think that things are going to get simple in Black Jack's ("I'm not Black Jack") life...oh know. We still have a totally unknown group of aliens on the other side of Syndicate Space...a group of aliens who want to spread into Human space.

I will try the next series that follows this one. I've been told it's not as good, but now I have to at least try it.

I can endorse this series...I'm even thinking of going back for a reread already. Again, highly recommended.

D.w. says

Finally, it is over. This series should have been half the size it ended up being. Why, because it repeated.

Then the next failing of the author, it repeated. So all these extra pages, were just rehashes of scenes that had already taken place with a new noun to show that it was a different place, but the same thing happening, or all the characters talking about how that thing that happened before was just like this, or do you remember the thing that happened, let me refresh your memory by describing it for pages.

So many pages that the author stretched out his mercenary hand for three extra books.

Where do we succeed and fail with this tale though. We reach a conclusion, finally. The war is over. Our angst ridden hero can retire. Except that the entire book has a subtheme where he won't retire and will be back fighting the new threat instantly.

Prepare yourself for another six book arc that can be told in three. So much time is spent on high school he said she said that you hope either the hero or his untouchable love interest die so it is over. This series was never a romance, and certainly in high school so much desire for another never took up so much of ones life.

So what makes a science fiction naval epic any good, action. In this case, since the hero commands a giant fleet, naval combat. Which is over so quickly you could have blinked. Pages in the front serve as a guide to tell you how many ships the hero commands and where some were lost. But who cares. The author will tell you in one half sentence how a certain ship, of which you have never heard, has gone down. Then he will track it through the entire series. But you are not invested in those characters. Not even many aboard the flagship. The secondary characters have no personalities for he has invested all of that into the hero.

You thus don't really care about anyone else in the series. Several loose ends are let loose, and the inability of anyone but the hero to think has to leave you wondering how in the 100 years the hero was asleep, the gene pool could have been reduced to recreating the idiots amongst us.

If you read any book in the series, get it from the library. Skim it and forget it. There are much better combat and fleet arc books out there. Certainly many that one can believe in the hero, the other characters, and the situation.

Denise says

Despite numerous losses and having had to face one perilous situation after another, the Fleet has finally made it back to Alliance space and the ruling council, despite fearing a military coup, has chosen to trust Geary and promotes him to Fleet Admiral. The new rank comes with authorization to launch one (hopefully) final attack against the Syndic home system and negotiate an end to the war. Even if the fleet prevails in this encounter, however, a new and potentially far more dangerous enemy remains to be dealt with: the alien race on the other side of Syndic space that has been playing Alliance and Syndics against each other for a century and doesn't hesitate to wipe out entire human-occupied star systems.

A satisfying conclusion to the series, though I felt it a little lacking in the huge epic battle scenes I've come to expect. I'm also glad we've *finally* got the romance issue sorted out before launching into the sequel series, which I'm eager to get started on.

D.G. says

What a boring book! That final battle with the Syndics was like seeing grass grow - mostly because they had

to just wait, wait, wait. If it hadn't been for Geary almost getting arrested - yup, that's the thanks he got after saving the Fleet! - and the showdown with the aliens, **Victorious** would have been nothing to write about.

I really like how Mr. Campbell brings politics into the action. I'm so naïve that it would have never occurred to me that Geary was in so much danger after all he did! I know Rione kept harping on that in the first few books but how the politicians treated Geary was still shocking to me. Once I knew the original fleet commander (Admiral Block) planned to install himself as a dictator, it made sense but again, still shocking! Geary saved all of their asses and the first thing the authorities do upon his arriving home was try to arrest him?

Anyhow, I still love Geary and the world. Totally looking forward to the companion series!

M Hamed says

what if the Yuuzhan Vong warmaster was Thrawn

and that is pretty much the plot

C.T. Phipps says

The finale of THE LOST FLEET SAGA is one which ends the major story arc of time-lost Captain John "Black Geary" and his quest to bring the Alliance fleet home after a disastrous mission traps it light years from home behind enemy lines. The fleet successfully brought itself home in the climax of the previous book and this story deals with the follow up as well as questions of what to do next. Also, whether John Geary is now too dangerous to be allowed to live for the civilian government.

I'm not usually a fan of "military versus civilian" stories but a theme of the books is how that sort of relationship is toxic. Geary wants nothing more than the civilian government to trust the military and vice versa but because he's such a legendary hero (made more so by recent actions), people believe he's potentially another Julius Caesar. The problem is, if they did arrest or kill him, it would lead to the very outcome they are afraid of. Also, you know, being horribly unjust and a terrible way to reward a victorious general.

I like this conflict as a nice change of pace for the usual naval battles of the series as it's something Geary is not very good at. Political maneuvering is not his forte. We do get plenty of naval combat, though, as they finally set upon defeating the Syndics once and for all as well as dealing with the mysterious "Enigma" race. We also get an answer to how they're going to deal with the hypergates that threaten to end the human race if they're turned into weapons.

In conclusion, this was a great series and this is a great finale. It leaves more space open for writing about the universe but resolves all major plot points. It's also something that ends on a satisfying and romantic note.

10/10
