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Chains Of Command (Frontlines Book 4)



Synopsis

The assault on Earth was thwarted by the destruction of the aliens'™ seed ship, but with Mars still under Lanky control, survivors work frantically to rebuild fighting capacity and shore up planetary defenses. Platoon sergeant Andrew Grayson must crash-course train new volunteers'™ all while dulling his searing memories of battle with alcohol and meds. Knowing Earth'™s uneasy respite won'™t last, the North American Commonwealth and its Sino-Russian allies hurtle toward two dangerous options: hit the Lanky forces on Mars or go after deserters who stole a fleet of invaluable warships critical to winning the war. Assigned to a small special ops recon mission to scout out the renegades'™ stronghold on a distant moon, Grayson and his wife, dropship pilot Halley, again find themselves headed for the crucible of combat'™ and a shattering new campaign in the war for humanity'™s future.

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Customer Reviews

Chains of Command starts about one year after Angles of Attack. Right of the bat I wanted to know what Grayson and Halley and the rest said about joining the 'cerebels'. There was no satisfactory answer given about how they came to their decisions. Grayson and Halley are now fully engrossed

in the machine that is the North American Commonwealth. Both now drill instructors, trying to fill the ranks of the decimated Corps. Both finding themselves dying a little bit inside, not only from missing the action of combat but from knowing that those they are training, many are just going to be sent to their deaths. With the Lankie forces amassing so close to Earth, on Mars. So what does the Alliance do? Go try to retake Mars with an unhealthy space force or do they go after the ones that deserted them and took several valuable assault ships? Much of, about one half, this book takes place in friendly territory. With Grayson battling and dealing with minutia of life back on Earth. He and Halley have built stable careers and lives. That is until Grayson is made an offer that he cannot, even though his instincts say so, refuse. In doing so he climbs the military ranks and places hundreds of lives in his hands. It seemed to drag on for longer than necessary, however I really enjoyed it. The next quarter of the story is all mission planning. Grayson collecting his hand picked team members. Saying goodbye to his wife and the life they have made. The final quarter is all out war. So much happens in such a short amount of the book. Kloos continues his meticulous battle sequences. Character interactions that still seem so real and natural, it drew me closer to each of them. Making it through the slower beginning was so worth it for this part.

This is a good solid entry in the series and a nice step up from the previous volume. I reviewed the previous volume and expressed a good deal of reservations about the book and the series'™ direction. While I'm sure the author doesn't know I exist, he addressed all those concerns in a prologue which acts as a segue between this book and the previous. There is a gap of several years in the story which is bridged by the prologue which puts a good many things to rights. A major element lifting this series above the crowd is that the main characters (they're all here eventually) are growing and changing according to the events which they experience. No character is nearly the same as he or she started out in volume one. In seeing them as we see real people – living, learning, loving, losing and growing – we become attached to them and care about their welfare. At least twice in this book, I was sure we were going to lose a character I cared about – a main one. I won't spoil to say if the telegraphing of this from the author proved true or a red herring. Fans of all action books will find this one a bit slow. We spend a good deal of time with the characters as they live during a lull in the Lanky War. There is some action but mostly character building and low violence action. There is one rather mysterious encounter with a Lanky ship but then we start tooling up for another adventure tangent to the main war. At about 70% we're off on this adventure which makes no sense at all until maybe the 98% mark when the Twist comes in. I knew there had to be a twist or nothing made any sense. What bothered me a bit is that none of our

well known intelligent characters said what was glaringly obvious â “ what they were doing during this tangent war was pointless.

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