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Outrageous Fortune: An Errant Enterprise (The Fortune Chronicles Book 2)



Synopsis

On the planet Fortune, tech is low and the price of doing business dangerously steep. A year after the war with the Coalition states has ended, John Pitte and the crew of the Errant aren't just scraping the bottom of the barrel, they're scraping the deck under the bottom of the barrel. So when a mysterious woman offers the crew salvation "or, at least a paying job" John signs on, only to discover that neither the job, nor the woman, are what they appear. Soon, the crew of the Errant are on the run and embroiled in a hive of madness and deception, while everything John hoped to save teeters on the brink of disaster. *Outrageous Fortune* is the second book of *The Fortune Chronicles*, a science fiction-fantasy hybrid set in the distant future, on the engineered planet Fortune. Here readers will discover elements of the Old West, steampunk, and urban fantasy, with a dash of heist comedy for good measure. Fans of the television show *Firefly* will find themselves at home with the crew of the Errant.

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Customer Reviews

Outrageous Fortune is set in the same world as Soldier of Fortune, a future steampunk world set on the planet Fortune. This story takes secondary characters from the first book and tells the story of what they were doing when their lives intersected with Gideon Quinn in Soldier of Fortune. You could read the books in either order. So here we find out more about Rory and Jinni and John Pitte and his crew. If you read the first book and wondered how Jinni and Rory got on once she was aboard the Errant, or how Etiane lost his hand this book will tell you. The banter is even more amusing than in Soldier of Fortune. The plot is as unpredictable; the writing is as good and thankfully the proofreading is better, so that I found much less errors than in book one. Once again the book has snippets of backstory throughout and again this is done exceptionally well. The book's point of view weaves back and forth between the characters, but it's done so smoothly that what in less skilled hands would be head hopping, here is just a shifting point of view. Even so, personally I would prefer less of it. Again the characterisation was superb and our heroes had noble sensitivities. People who at first appeared to be enemies sometimes found common ground, and 'not taking it personally' was a repeated theme. The story revolves around a job the crew of the Errant take to retrieve an item. It should have been a simple matter, but turns out to be far more complicated. I would never have thought that a simple calculator could be so much of a problem. I highly recommend this story to all who love a rollicking sci fi or even just a great adventure story, because the sci fi aspects don't intrude on the story. It's just a jolly good read.

This is the second in a series that I sincerely hope will go on . . . and on . . . and on. Having read the first, I was eagerly awaiting this next adventure and it was all I wanted and more. The vivid and intriguing characters inhabit a fully realized world that invites you in and then won't let you go. It's not always pretty, or safe, or fair but it feels very real and following these shipmates as they work their way through the story (using guile, grit, honor . . . and their fists) is a wild ride. The writing is smart and smart-alecky, the relationships feel grounded in personal histories and honest. The plot twists and turns enough to keep you guessing while never getting you lost. I even laughed . . . out loud . . . several times. (Something I seldom do while reading. Smile, yes. Laugh? only when the humor surprises and delights me) Something else that I really enjoyed was the way the first story was woven into this one. I wasn't expecting the second to focus so completely on characters that we had only briefly met in the first but it made such wonderful sense! It put me in mind of Anne McCaffrey's Pern books, since the world being written about is, in fact, an entire world and there are countless stories to be told. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Good read with characters you want to believe in

Excellent read. The first book was good and this was maybe better. Wish there was more of the same.

This book interweaves with the first novel without becoming too entangled. Each can easily be read separately. A new favorite author. The dialogue is brisk, the world is well imagined and a little quirky, and the characters have depth. I will preorder or purchase the next book ASAP.

The authors did a great job of "world building" in creating the world of Fortune with its airships and pet dracos. Outrageous Fortune is a worthy successor to Soldier of Fortune and, if you liked that book I can pretty much guarantee you'll like this one. The adventure itself is very well written but what (to me at least) puts this book above others is the well developed characters and great job in writing how they interact with each other. Definitely a fun read and definitely recommended. PS: To be fair I should note that I'm really tough on giving stars. I suspect that many other readers will give this book five stars but, with me, unless it's Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land, McCaffrey's White Dragon, Herbert's Dune or Tolkien's LoTR you won't see five stars in a review. So keep that in mind when you see the four stars here as (for me) that means the book is really (really) good.

I haven't read the first book but didn't feel hampered by that. Instead, I was intrigued by the first page and totally hooked by the second page. By the end, I knew I wanted anything (everything, actually) written by this author. There is plenty of action and excitement. Some awfully wriity/humorous comments. A bit of romance. A well imagined world where I want to return. Likeable heroes. Flashbacks that explain, not confuse, things. Yes, there are a few minor errors missed during the editing process but just an extra "a: or missing "the". I really enjoyed the occasional quote from Shakespeare or paraphrase from TS Eliot, but if you don't catch those, you won't realise you missed a small joke. This is definitely a book that will leave you wanting to spend more time with the characters. I received this book as an Arc in exchange for a voluntary, honest review.

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