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Fortune's Rising (Outer Bounds Book 1)



SARA KING



Synopsis

Fortune has a secret. Humanity, in its struggle to escape its own planet's demise, began sending colony ships from Earth almost seven hundred years ago in the desperate hope a handful would find some place habitable to human life and be able to continue our species. Only one ship survived. It only survived because it found a vast swath of alien planets, all terraformed, all utterly abandoned. Alien megastructures cold and lifeless. Alien vehicles left in panicked lines, sealed from the inside, no corpses within. Empty space stations, with no one to run them but the dust. Resources everywhere, ripe for the taking. But Fortune is different. Of all the planets colonized by humans after the chaos of Migration, this single, jungle-infested colony on the very edge of the known universe holds the key to the alien collapse and to humanity's survival. Everywhere else, advanced alien ruins mar every surface, every planetoid, every debris ring and asteroid, but of the creatures that made them, there is no sign. On Fortune, something survives. Unfortunately for humanity, while time is running out, a rebellion is brewing, one that could save our species or consign it to dust like the aliens that came before us. Now, seven hundred years after our first brush with extinction, the fate of the human race once again rests on the shoulders of a few: a seven-year-old sociopath and her combat-gifted big sister, a man who's dreamed of the future, an infamous smuggler, and a Coalition pilot sworn to destroy the rebel cause. This time, however, the stakes are higher. For lurking on Fortune is a secret. An epic, post-apocalyptic science fiction adventure that will make you hold your breath, cry, curse the powers that be, and in the end question what, exactly, it means to be human.

*FOR CURRENT FANS OF THE OUTER BOUNDS SERIES: This is the THIRD edition of Outer Bounds 1: Fortune's Rising. To celebrate the return of the Outer Bounds' series to its creator, Sara King added a bonus 17,500 word novella to this edition detailing Anna's rescue of Milar from the Nephrys, as well as some fantastic book-derived art by bestselling graphic artist Lance MacCarty. It also has timeline fixes and minor edits to better synch it with the rest of the series. Plus it just looks cooler.

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Customer Reviews

Sara King is some sort of freaky genius. It's like she can look into my brain and find all of the things I'm obsessed with, write a (long, amazing) book about them, AND promise me a sequel in 6-8 months. I've read and loved all five of her currently-published novels, but Outer Bounds has got to be the best so far. Here's why:1.) The characters oh em gee the characters. All of them! Anna the seven-year-old sociopath and her "pet" robot, Magali the Killer, Runaway Joel, Milar and Tatiana...I could sit here all day debating with myself and not come up with a particular "favorite" character. This cast is a complex and diverse bunch with divided loyalties and priorities, and yet the relationships that they build over the course of the story and the gradually-revealed ties that bind them all together weave the story as a whole into a truly epic tapestry.2.) The science part of this fiction is amazing. The world of Fortune is a bit like Herbert's Dune - a rather unpleasant place to be most of the time, cruelly mined for its sort of gross natural reserves, mixed with a bit of Firefly's space-western aesthetic. Populating this world are Nephrys (augmented human soldiers who have had their skin and most of their humanity stripped away), operators and soldiers (humans who are literally wired into practically invincible battle-mechs), and "Yolk babies" like Anna, who are hyperintelligent if not particularly socially adept, kind of like the kids in the Enderverse.3.) Sara King's writing continues to amaze me. The part where Tatiana is wired into her soldier had me cringing, one scene with Anna was definitely High Octane Nightmare Fuel, and there was one particular part toward the end that had me sniffling for the rest of the book.

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